

November 11, 2008

Dear Friends and Family:

I write this note with a humble gesture and an open heart. Many of you may already know the remarkable story of my late partner, Tom Stone. Tom was one of only three people who have walked around the world. He left Pomfret, Vermont in the spring of 1992. The entire 8 years of his travel, children of the Pomfret Elementary School mapped his journey and wrote him letters. When he returned in 2000, forty pairs of boots later, they met him at the edge of town and walked him back home.

Aside from his adventuresome spirit, zest for life, and love of humanity—especially children—Tom literally saved hundreds of lives in Afghanistan. He served three tours of duty as a Medic in the Vermont National Guard, establishing a clinic near Mazār-e Sharīf to treat local people—including women. He had a great respect for the Afghan people and won their trust in return. Tragically, Tom was killed during an incident of friendly fire in the Helmand Province of southern Afghanistan in 2006.

My dream to build a school in Tom's honor has been brewing for more than a year, and now it is becoming a reality. I met Jonathan Hoffman, another compassionate and remarkable human being based in Vermont, and we decided to work together on the project. Jonathan founded Direct Aid International in 2003, a small non-political, nonsectarian organization dedicated to bringing a sense of normalcy to international crisis situations. Since 1999 Jonathan has made 4 trips to Kosovo and 7 to Afghanistan. In Kosovo, he provided firewood for 8 families living in tents and destroyed family farms.

During the past 7 summers he has traveled to Afghanistan to fund and facilitate the building of 6 schools and a library, located in Gazni province. Jonathan has distributed more than 20,000 notebooks, pencils, pens, and dozens of soccer balls to the children of this war-torn country.

During the school year, Jonathan is a culinary instructor to high school students at the Center for Technology in Essex, Vermont. Throughout the year, he raises money and awareness through presentations to community organizations, in schools, sister school dialogues, and in interviews with the media. A volunteer Board of Directors provides guidance and assistance with outreach, budget management, and technical support. Direct Aid International is a 501-c-3 non-profit and you can be assured that all financial support is used for direct aid only.

Together with Direct Aid International, we will build a school in Herat Province in western Afghanistan. We plan on breaking ground in the summer of 2009 and in 2010 placing a plaque at the school to honor Tom. The plaque will be the only "mark" we leave, as construction and administration of the school for all the years to come will be handled by the local community.

This is a project about hope that honors a Vermonter who gave his life helping others. In the words of Tom Stone, "I cannot direct the wind, but I can adjust the sail." We can make a difference together.

Since September, we have raised over \$11,500 towards our goal of \$20,000. If you

Would like to make a contribution to this project, Please make your check out to

**Direct Aid International**  
**P.O. Box 394**  
**Northfield, Vermont 05663**

- Please write on the Memo line: “**Tom Stone School**”
- To donate online using a credit card, visit [www.directaidinternational.org](http://www.directaidinternational.org). Please accompany your online donation with an email to DAI stating that it is for the **Tom Stone School**.
- Your donation is tax deductible and you will receive a receipt in the mail.
- For more information about Tom Stone and the school please contact

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Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and heart-felt thanks in advance for your support.

Most sincerely,

Rose Loving