

January, 2010

Another new year. Time does fly... Find myself reminiscing 20/30 years ago... I was writing my financial newsletter – largest financial circulation in the world at that time, I was told – over 300,000 subscribers.

I'm still asked how I did it. Simple, I gave my readers something no one had ever given before that time – a full one year money-back-guarantee on anything they bought from me. Many unique collectibles I sought out for them from around the world. "Give your readers the best your can" my father once said to me. "They gave you their trust". My world is far different now. But I still hear his words.

My son, Ari, seems to be recovering, albeit slowly, from the spinal hemorrhage he suffered and the several operations that followed. Hopefully, he will succeed me at the Foundation when it comes time for me to bid farewell.

The future of our school and day care center in Nicaragua is clouded by the pending retirement of the dear women who made it all happen. Hopefully, someone in our Leadership Community Service Program at the University of Nicaragua will be able to oversee it for me.

Last October we gave a special \$50,000 challenge to Israeli anti-hunger agencies at the behest of a former student at Johnson & Wales University Graduate School and his wife who are now living there. To my surprise, it raised \$16 million. With such a return, I plan to repeat it again next year. Few people know that despite its medical and technological knowhow, Israel has a third world hunger problem.

I'm also funding the building of a new school and feeding station in Kenya that will hopefully lift many youngster there out of dire poverty and illiteracy.

My offer of matching funds to all schools that raised money for our annual national campaign to feed the hungry has produced very little response outside of our own local 116 Feinstein Leadership Schools. The total raised to date from our schools is just shy of \$400,000. And that's on top of the 114,000 cans of food they and our Jr. Scholars raised for their local food pantries and the RI Food Bank from our fall appeal. Great kids. Great schools.

I was able to complete visiting all our Leadership schools for an intercom greeting by early December and I'm now preparing for our next annual national spring campaign to fight hunger. That campaign has raised just over \$1 Billion during the last 12 years of its existence. Largest fund raising response ever?.. (see: our Home Page)

I'm spending the holidays with my family in California. Hope to get all the grandchildren to sit still for an updated public service greeting. They send their love to all our Jr. Scholars

A from-the-heart thank you to all the teachers and parents who join me in telling your youngsters that no matter their age, they CAN make a difference in the lives of others. Every time they do something good for somebody that puts a smile on their face, they are making the world a better place. And that makes them very special!

A million smiles are what I wish for your children – our Jr. Scholars - to bring to the world each year. And bringing smiles to the world is a wonderful gift indeed.

To our teachers – who make it all possible.

Peace/Love,

Alan Shawn Feinstein