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High School Visit. Feb. 4, 1988

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REMARKS FOR HOWE HIGH SCHOOL VISIT
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

-- THANK YOU, MR. WILLIAMS, FOR THIS CHECK. AND THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE STAY DRUG-FREE. I'VE GENUINELY ENJOYED MY PARTNERSHIP WITH KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. IT'S SAID THAT IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE, ASK A BUSY PERSON. I THINK THE SAME THING CAN BE SAID FOR ORGANIZATIONS. KIWANIS CERTAINLY HAS PROVEN THAT. YOUR LEADERSHIP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE IS OUTSTANDING.

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-- I GUESS YOU KNOW THAT I'VE JUST COME FROM A SESSION WITH WAYMAN TISDALE AND THE TISDALE TEAM. WAYMAN, YOU'RE DOING A MARVELOUS JOB. I WAS SO HAPPY TO LEARN THAT YOU AND THE SCHOOL BOARD WANT TO EXPAND THIS PROGRAM INTO EVERY HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AREA. I HOPE ALL OF THE STUDENTS HERE WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN IN THIS PROGRAM VERY SOON.

-- I KNOW THAT BEING YOUR AGE ISN'T ALWAYS EASY. THERE ARE LOTS OF PRESSURES -- THE PRESSURE TO MAKE GOOD GRADES,

THE PRESSURE YOU FEEL TO BE ACCEPTED, THE PRESSURE FROM PEERS TO DO THINGS YOU MAY NOT ALWAYS THINK ARE RIGHT. THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS TO THESE PRESSURES. BUT THE PRESSURES ARE WHAT'S GOING TO MAKE YOU ADULTS.

-- SINCE THERE AREN'T EASY WAYS OUT OF THE DIFFICULTIES ALL YOUNG PEOPLE FACE, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU REACH OUT AND HELP EACH OTHER. KIWANIS IS MAKING THAT EASIER, SO IS WAYMAN TISDALE. BUT THE BEST HELP FOR YOUNG COMES FROM YOU . . . THEIR PEERS.

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IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU BE THERE TO HELP A FRIEND WITH A PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY DRUG PROBLEMS. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU BE THERE FOR SUPPORT. PERHAPS IF YOU ARE THERE FROM THE START, YOU CAN HELP THEM EVEN STAY OFF DRUGS IN THE FIRST PLACE. THAT'S A VERY TOUGH TASK. BUT REALLY, WHO ELSE IS BETTER FOR THAT JOB THAN YOU? WHO DO YOUNG PEOPLE TRUST MORE THAN THEIR FRIENDS?

-- WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN SOMETHING BAD.

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POSITIVE PEER PRESSURE CAN STEER PEOPLE ON A ROAD TO A HEALTHY, INTERESTING, FASCINATING, AND DRUG-FREE LIFE. I LIKE THE WHOLE IDEA OF YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING FOR, AND TEACHING OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYTHING GOOD ABOUT LIFE. THAT'S JUST WHAT THE TISDALE TEAM DOES.

-- I GET MANY LETTERS FROM PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY DRUGS. ONE LETTER I RECEIVED CAME FROM A YOUNG MAN WHO SHOT HIMSELF AND NEARLY DIED. IT WAS QUAALUDES THAT DISORIENTED HIM, BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANY DRUG.

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HE SAID: "WITH EACH NEW DRUG I TRIED, I WOULD LAUGH AT THE THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE DANGEROUS . . . UNTIL THE DAY I ENDED UP WITH A BULLET IN MY HEAD . . ."

-- NOW THE POINT IS THIS: WHERE WERE HIS FRIENDS? HIS PEERS? WHERE WERE THEY? THEY HAD TO KNOW THIS WAS HAPPENING. SOMETIMES OTHERS AREN'T AS LUCKY TO SURVIVE AS THIS YOUNG MAN. BUT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL SURVIVE -- MORE WILL NEVER EVEN GET INTO DRUGS -- IF YOU BEGIN TO INFLUENCE THEM. PEER PRESSURE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

-- AND NOW, I'D LIKE TO MAKE TWO CHECK PRESENTATIONS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE IDEA OF YOUNG PEOPLE HELPING EACH OTHER FIGHT DRUGS. THE FIRST IS TO WAYMAN TISDALE. WAYMAN, WOULD YOU PLEASE STEP FORWARD. ON BEHALF OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,500 FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE "TISDALE TEAM" IN THE INDIANAPOLIS SCHOOLS. I HOPE THIS WILL HELP MAKE YOUR DREAM COME TRUE OF TAKING YOUR PROGRAM INTO EVERY JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL IN THIS CITY.

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-- AND IF DAVID GARRETT, DRUG EDUCATION COORDINATOR FOR INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WOULD STEP UP. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS CHECK, ALSO ON BEHALF OF KIWANIS, IN THE AMOUNT \$7,226. THIS IS TO HELP REACH THE GOAL OF IMPLEMENTING A "JUST SAY NO" CLUB IN EVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE AREA.

-- MY APPRECIATION TO KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL, WAYMAN TISDALE AND ALL OF YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO JOIN YOU TODAY.

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