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## Volunteer Committee of Parents of Deerfield Boys

Room 400, 115 Broadway  
 New York 6, N. Y.  
 Telephone: WOrth 2-2200

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 Fortis Veda Beach, Fla.  
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November 20, 1950

Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Clark  
 249 North Main Street  
 South Deerfield, Mass.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Clark:

I have some wonderful news for you.

I wrote you last December that the parents of one of our boys agreed to lay \$400,000 on Frank Boyden's desk if we would raise \$600,000. We have already raised \$400,000. And now, if you and I and all the other Deerfield parents (about 2500 families altogether) will raise just half as much, \$200,000, we can bring the Deerfield Building program to complete success.

Thus in five years, with no professional money-raising help or advice, we amateurs will have done what the whole educational world thought was impossible. We will have raised \$2,500,000, and made Deerfield safe for the future.

Since you won't be hearing from me much more, will you do me the personal favor of letting me recite just a little bit of history.

When Frank and Helen Boyden went to Deerfield in 1902 there was nothing but a lot of beautiful trees, a few old buildings, and a debt. They decided that every dollar they could beg, borrow or steal would be put into getting the best possible teachers. The idea that they could ever have enough money for modern buildings seemed too much even to think about.

But the building situation was taken out of their hands. In 1929 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts took a look at the Old School Building, which cost \$18,000 when it was put up in 1878, and the Commonwealth said: "This has got to go."

That was the year Frank hitch-hiked to New York, and some of us rallied around and induced the parents to give or pledge about a million dollars.