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## Volunteer Committee of Parents of Deerfield Boys

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December 10, 1955

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Washington, D. C.

Eleven years ago, when the State authorities of Massachusetts had condemned several buildings at Deerfield Academy as being unfit or unsafe, a group of parents of Deerfield boys met with Frank Boyden in New York to discuss the Academy's financial situation and needs.

These friends asked me if I would write a letter to all the fathers and mothers of Deerfield boys, telling the facts and inviting contributions. As it turned out, I wrote not one letter, but fifteen letters, over a period of six years. The last one went out four years ago, on December 19, 1951.

The results of this mail-order campaign were something that has never been duplicated by any educational institution in the history of the world. Never before has any group of parents ever testified to their affection for a school teacher and his wife in such generous terms. Without personal solicitation or pressure of any sort, 1275 families poured \$2,625,000 into the Deerfield treasury in gifts as small as five dollars and as large as several hundred thousand dollars.

Joyfully, we pulled down (1) the rambling old wooden dining hall where the boys often had to stand outside in the rain waiting to get in for lunch or dinner; (2) the tiny infirmary, a patched-up wooden house, and (3) the ramshackle barn, a real fire-trap if there ever was one, but the only auditorium then available for school meetings,