

February, 2011

It's been an eventful past few months. My son, Ari, had another operation (his eighth in the last 18 months) which thankfully, has restored a little mobility – enabling him to walk with canes for short periods.

The unusual reign of snow and ice here this winter delayed many of my school visitations but – finally – I've finished the last of them – 127 Leadership schools – 65,000 Feinstein Jr. Scholars.

The good deeds our boys and girls are doing each year number in the tens of thousands. There is no way I can report them all on my short weekend 'Our Great Kids' shows but I mention as many as I can. And PBS has promised that when I stop doing the show, they will re-run my past episodes for at least 5 years. So it seems I'll be around for a while - even after I'm gone.

I've given funds to all our schools for a community fund for emergency needs for students or their families facing sudden, unexpected difficulties and some money for student enrichment activities. Hopefully, I'll be able to continue this each year and our Foundation will continue to do so after I'm gone.

Whether I will be able to continue my assemblies at all our schools next year is pretty much up in the air. I discovered that a minor prostate cancer I've had for a few years has turned aggressive, calling for immediate treatment. It's unusual for a man at my age to develop aggressive prostate cancer – an unpleasant shock. On the other hand, I was lucky to catch it while it's still – apparently – treatable. I've started hormone shots and will soon begin radiation – I understand you can get a wide range of unpleasant reactions; I'll let you know.

Our 14th annual \$1 Million Giveaway Campaign to Fight Hunger is about to get underway. Over 2 million people join in it each year. The total it's raised in past years has now reached over \$1 Billion – each year raising more than the year before, to feed the hungry. May it continue. With the help of our Leadership Schools and Jr. Scholars spearheading the campaign, I hope to make this year another record-breaking one.

A new school in Kenya, Africa has been named in honor of our Jr. Scholars – The Feinstein Jr. Scholar Academy. It's a wonderful tribute for our American youngsters who have done so much to better the lives of others by doing so many good deeds to have this school named for them in Kenya for children who never had a school before.

Each of our Leadership schools has a poster of the school, featuring its school personnel and their students outfitted in Feinstein Jr. Scholar sweatshirts. A video of the Kenya youngsters thanking our Jr. Scholars and teachers is on YouTube.com under Feinstein/Kenya.

Best wishes,
Alan Shawn Feinstein