

October, 2010

The heat of the summer was exhausting – it really wore me down. Now, with the cooler weather, I'm rebounding. But my son Ari had a set-back – his legs are very weak, he must use a walker or wheelchair to get around. He's got great courage though. His doctors Okayed him going to Greece with his mother and sister on their planned vacation this month. I stayed home – preparing for my school visitations beginning the end of this month. I have about 120 Leadership Schools and hope I'll be able to get to assemblies for all of them this year.

The head of the Rhode Island State Police, Colonel Dougherty, called me, wanting to join with me in some effort to motivate and inspire local high school students to develop their finer instincts.

PBS now has my 'Our Great Kids' show on 4 times every weekend, plus every weekday on their LEARN channel. That, plus my school program and public service announcements and appearances make me very recognizable person in the state, I'm told.

PBS has promised to have my show continue for at least the next 5 years, whether I do any more new ones or not. If I stop doing new shows during that time, even tomorrow, they'll just go into re-running the old ones.

Rhode Island Monthly Magazine, in their October 'Most Powerful People in Rhode Island' issue, featured me as one of them. Ironically they wrote about my "leveraging \$1 million into \$1 billion to help the hungry nation-wide" but leaving out entirely my school program, which is really my major impact in the state.

I love going to Carousel Village in Roger William Park on weekends, greeting the children, giving them free carousel rides and popcorn, one of the many benefits for Jr. Scholars in my school program.

I'm having new Jr. Scholar cards printed next week, adding on free karate lessons and a free visitation to the Mystic Aquarium for all our Jr. Scholars and their adult guests.

Found a \$50,000 mistake in our accountant's preparation of my income tax return – forgetting that a sizeable IRA withdrawal from my account to the middle school in Coventry was a tax deductible donation. Good thing I caught it.

I set out a 'resting' chair on the front lawn of our office for our postman. It caused quite a stir – front page story in the Cranston Herald and on the six o'clock news. It was treated as a great joke by his fellow postal workers – except for his supervisor. Now my new message on his chair reads: 'Eddie, please remove your empty beer bottles'.