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Dear Friend,

Thanks so much for your interest in the Lenny Wilkens Foundation. We hope the work we undertake together has a positive impact on the lives of families who live in our beautiful state of Washington.

Experiences during my childhood caused me, as an adult, to advocate for quality healthcare and education for all children. My father passed away when I was just 5 years old. For my mother, the challenges of raising five children on her own seemed insurmountable. I remember a time when I was very ill and my mother had to take me to the local neighborhood clinic. It was a sobering experience. We were treated rudely and disrespectfully. It was particularly hard on my mother, who was very worried about my condition. The experience helped me become committed to all children getting the care and respect they need and deserve.

Similarly, I was fortunate enough to have key mentors in my childhood who taught me the importance of investing in my mind. I am committed to ensuring every child has an opportunity at an education. I believe it is a way out of the vicious circle of poverty.

In the 1970's, I had the honor of meeting Dr. Blanche Lavizzo, the first medical director of the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic (OBCC), which was established to provide high quality healthcare to the underserved residents of Seattle's Central Area. Her passion for providing 'healthcare with dignity' struck a chord with me. Since that meeting, I have been a major supporter of the clinic's work. To date, Marilyn and I and our many friends have raised more than \$2 million dollars for the OBCC. This success shows how the work of a few can significantly impact the many.

In 2007 we officially launched the Lenny Wilkens Foundation. We hope this step will expand our outreach in the Northwest. With your help, we will continue to support organizations that provide basic healthcare and education with dignity to culturally diverse communities in our region.

Thank you so much for your time, your attention and above all, your generosity.

Sincerely,

Lenny Wilkens