



April 2, 2011

Dear Pittsford Crew Families,

Over the past two weeks, our athletes and their families have received a lot of information about our upcoming fundraiser, "Row for Strong Kids!" We have asked you to write to friends, family members, and professional contacts, requesting support as our athletes undertake our largest yearly fundraising event. Along with bringing in monetary support for Pittsford Crew and Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong, our athletes will spend next Saturday, April 9, erging at Eastview Mall, thus providing positive attention to the sport of rowing and, in particular, the programs of Pittsford Crew. In short, it is an event that showcases the best of Pittsford Crew and rowing, while also benefiting our local children's hospital.

What many of you may not be aware of is the very personal connection that this fundraiser has to our Assistant Varsity Coach, Andrew Lennox. Like many of our athletes, Andrew began his relationship with Pittsford Crew in 2000, attending one of our Summer Learn to Row Camps. Andrew not only discovered a sport that kept him in top physical condition, but he also developed a passion that would later take on a particularly significant role in his life. In September of 2002 Andrew was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia, and his life instantly changed. However, Andrew and his family all persevered, and at the end of two years, Andrew was in remission and started to get his life back, little by little. The families of Pittsford Crew, including our founder, Dr. Richard Feins, were caring and supportive during this difficult time, and Andrew, his parents, and his two sisters will never forget how much it meant to them. This motivated Andrew to get well and to prove the doctors wrong who told him that he would probably never be able to row again.

Andrew worked with his doctors and a physical therapist to try and develop enough strength to row in the spring of his senior year. In April of 2005 he returned to Pittsford Crew, and at the NYS Rowing Championships that year, his boat (Varsity 8B) won a gold medal. The fact that he was there at all was a miracle, but winning that medal was a moment of triumph and redemption for both Andrew and his family. After completing his freshman year of college, Andrew returned to Pittsford Crew and served as a Learn to Row coach for the next four years. Last August, we were fortunate enough to hire Andrew as a full-time member of our coaching staff.

With this background, I'm sure you understand why the Lennox family created this fundraiser four years ago, and why this annual event continues to be so important to all of us associated with Pittsford Crew. I hope that all of you will take the time to seek donations for "Row for Strong Kids!" and come out and support our athletes next

Saturday. We are hoping to raise at least \$20,000 this year, an amount that will help tremendously with our capital fund and our ability to meet the demands of our 140+ athletes. And again this year, Golisano Children's Hospital is thrilled that we have included them as an additional beneficiary of our efforts. You can view their newsletter showcasing our event by clicking on the link below.

It is a privilege to be able share Andrew's story with you and your families. Thank you for your continued support of Pittsford Crew and for doing all you can to make this year's "Row for Strong Kids!" a success for all involved.

Sincerely,
Suanne Lippman
President, Pittsford Crew

<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/childrens-hospital/giving/events/RowforStrongKids.cfm>