

May 14, 1999

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Governor
125 West State St.
PO Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0001

Dear Governor Whitman,

I am the former creator and director of several youth programs geared toward today's at-risk youth. The programs I ran involved juveniles and scuba diving, camping, kayaking and the obvious self sufficient skills needed to conduct oneself properly and safely. However my programs are not meant to be the subject of this letter.

I am writing to you in the wake of the recent Columbine shootings, to acknowledge that there are programs that do address young peoples lives in a way that may prove to minimize future violent bouts of acting out. My wife and I have been a part of one such program for the last 4 years. It is Tang Soo Do.

Tang Soo Do is a 2000 year old Korean martial art taught here in New Jersey as well as other states. But this particular school that I go to is different. Let me tell you why.

The Pleasantville Tang Soo Do Karate Academy, owned and operated by Master Don Straga, a 7th degree Master, his wife Lisa, a 2nd degree Black Belt and a host of loyal Masters and Black belts focus not only on the family, but specifically on at risk children. Master Straga in addition to running a regular school for paying customers, runs thousands of free classes for the local at-risk youth population. If it were not for my own experiences as a Tang Soo Do student and my first hand observations of the positive effect of this particular martial art on young people, taught by Master Straga, I might not believe it. It simply is something you must see for your self.

Master Straga now dedicates a vast amount of time, energy and resources toward teaching students the tools necessary to successfully navigate the maze of situational decision making in today's difficult world.

First Master Straga created The Future Leaders Foundation, a 501c3 organization. Next he concentrated on the Pleasantville Recreational center, teaching hundreds of kids (free of charge) not only the skills necessary to protect themselves from violent interactions,

but also the skills that help establish positive self-esteem, self control and the always too simplified and grossly underestimated ability to simply say NO.

Master Straga has now broadened his endeavors to include the local Pleasantville elementary school. The elementary school is one block away from the Tang Soo Do Academy and the students flow back and forth between The Tang Soo Do Academy and the elementary school reminiscent of the way that blood flows back and forth between the heart and its surrounding organs. Pardon the analogy but I am speaking about what I consider to be life-sustaining skills.

O.K., so what are those skills I'm referring to? Discipline, respect, honor, family values, strength in abilities, belief in one's self, belief in one's future and the ability to visualize and imagine what life could be like, taken one step at a time. These, of course, are only some of the core tools needed to be successful, and they are all taught in the setting of Tang Soo Do and The Future Leaders Foundation.

There is a current study being conducted to determine the extent to which the skills taught by Master Straga in the martial arts setting, are in fact transferable into the school, home and community setting. With the volunteer support of the school counselor and a local well respected psychologist gathering the data, preliminary results are proving to be strongly favorable toward the reduction of altercations, increased self esteem and a rise in grades.

I must clarify at this point that I was there that first day the children started the program. They came in, about 35 of them, hollering, fighting, antagonizing, disrespecting their teacher and disrespecting each other. It took one solid hour just to get them to stand still and pay attention, but discipline is important. Now four months later (two classes per week), when they come over from their school, they are quiet, they stand in a straight line, they hustle as they're getting ready for class, they are respectful of their teacher, their friends and the instructors at the Karate academy. Now they say YES SIR like they mean it, not because they have to. I knew that Tang Soo Do would have this effect on them. What I didn't know is that it would happen so quickly, and transfer immediately into their school life. What a pleasant surprise that it didn't take a year. Another funny thing happened: the parents came to see the kids take one of their Karate tests. Wow! Most of the kids' parents have little or no involvement in their kids' formal education. They normally don't even show up at the school when they are requested to. I say this, on information I received from the teachers in the school who were also amazed at the new amount of parental involvement. Somehow, learning a martial art was worth the parents' time, but what was going on in the elementary school was not. This I found most interesting.

Page 3


Governor, I urge you to take the time to visit and witness for yourself the effectiveness of the Future Leaders Foundation's Tang Soo Do program. It is a truly unique and effective program. Classes are held nearly every day. Would you please request one of your staff to call Master Don Straga at 609-646-8855 to set up an appointment for you, yourself, to come and see the remarkable transformation in these kids.

You are unique, Governor, in that you have the power to truly do good in the community simply by visiting a worthwhile program, drawing attention to that program and showcasing its benefits with the many people in our State who care enough to be active in the fight against acts of violence committed by young people.

I am a financial supporter of this program, as is our Kligerman Family Foundation. This is something of true value to the State of New Jersey and is precisely the kind of program that you want to acknowledge as a credit to your administration.

Thank you very much for your attention to this letter and your action.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DK', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

David B. Kligerman
President / Chief Operating Officer
AkPharma Inc.