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For immediate release
October 21, 2010

Contact: Bob Jacobson, 608-284-0580, ext. 303

Kids Tell the Candidates What They're Looking for in a New Governor Campaign Brings in 120 Letters from Students Across Wisconsin

Yesterday, the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) delivered 120 letters from children across the state to gubernatorial candidates Tom Barrett and Scott Walker. The letters, written by students ranging from pre-Kindergarten to 8th grade, conveyed to the candidates the kids' ideas about what the next Governor of Wisconsin should focus on, and why the needs of children and families should be a priority for the incoming administration.

“As child advocates, our role is to provide a voice for Wisconsin’s children at the State Capitol,” said Ken Taylor, executive director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. “But sometimes, it’s best to let young people speak for themselves. This is one of those opportunities for the candidates to hear what kids have to say in their own words.”

WCCF reached out to schools across Wisconsin several weeks ago, inviting them to offer students the chance to communicate their hopes and needs to the two major candidates for Governor. In response, letters arrived from widely scattered areas of the state, from Prairie Farm in Barron County to the City of Milwaukee. A small sampling of the letters is appended to this press release and can also be viewed on the WCCF website at <http://www.wccf.org>.

“Wisconsin has a great history of civic involvement among its residents,” said Taylor. “We’re proud to help this generation of students start getting involved in shaping the state’s future.”

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Dalvaughn

Dear Governor

If I were Governor
I will do everything in my power
to help others to stay healthy and
happy. I will give food to the
people that are hungry and feed
them all the time.



Child
Development
Center of
St Joseph
1600 W Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee 53215

Edgewood School
4711 South 47th Street
Greenfield, WI 53220
October 6 2010

Ms. Sabrina Gentile
WCCF
555 West Washington Avenue, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Candidates for Governor:

My name is Sasha. I am a 10 year old 5th grade boy. I go to Edgewood Elementary School. I am writing to concern you about children and families in Wisconsin. Right now, thousands of families in Wisconsin are struggling. I think you should lower taxes and kill tax increase, because my family needs lower taxes. You should also help the homeless, because they don't have proper food, shelter, or clothing. Wisconsin also needs crime rate lowered, because children are being injured, and sometimes killed. Families in Wisconsin want to make Wisconsin a better state, so you should do that. This is my opinion on what you should do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sasha".

Sasha

Edgewood
4711 So. 47th street
Greenfield WI. 53220
October 6, 2010

Ms. Sabrina Gentile
WCCF
555 west Washington Avenue, suite 200
Madison, WI 53220

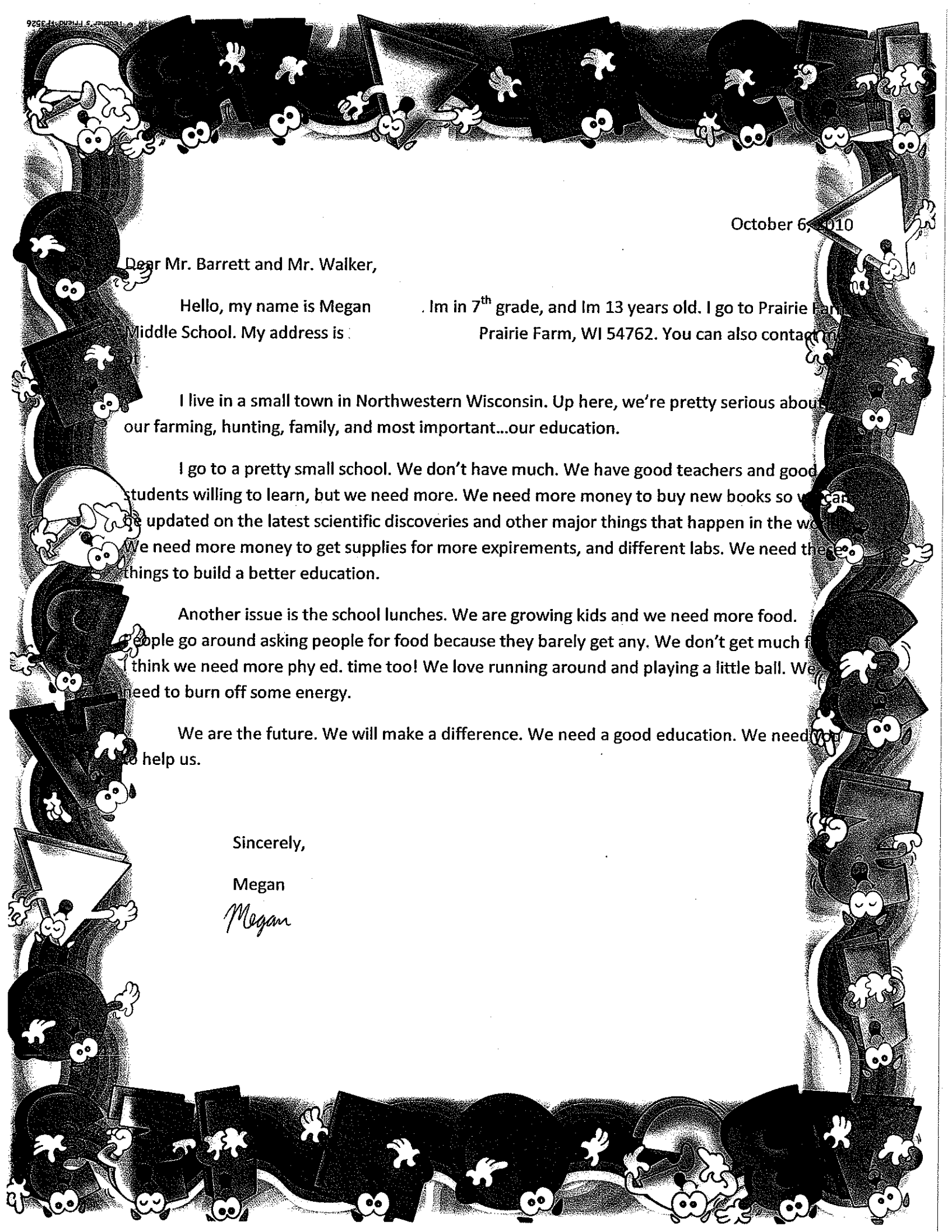
Dear Candidates for Governor:

Hi my name Leya . I am 10 years old and I am in fifth grade. I go to Edgewood Elementary School. I have some ideas for when you become governor. I am writing to you because children need to be treated better. Children need love, care and shelter. Kids need happiness. They need education. You should encourage people to adopt children even if they have medical problems. Every child should be treated equally. Children need to be able to go to the doctors offices. Try to help the kids that are not treated correctly, nicely and that live in foster homes with no family. Please try to use my ideas thanks.

Sincerely,

Leya

Leya



October 6, 2010

Dear Mr. Barrett and Mr. Walker,

Hello, my name is Megan. I'm in 7th grade, and I'm 13 years old. I go to Prairie Farm Middle School. My address is: Prairie Farm, WI 54762. You can also contact me at [redacted].

I live in a small town in Northwestern Wisconsin. Up here, we're pretty serious about our farming, hunting, family, and most important...our education.

I go to a pretty small school. We don't have much. We have good teachers and good students willing to learn, but we need more. We need more money to buy new books so we can be updated on the latest scientific discoveries and other major things that happen in the world. We need more money to get supplies for more experiments, and different labs. We need the things to build a better education.

Another issue is the school lunches. We are growing kids and we need more food. People go around asking people for food because they barely get any. We don't get much food. I think we need more phy ed. time too! We love running around and playing a little ball. We need to burn off some energy.

We are the future. We will make a difference. We need a good education. We need you to help us.

Sincerely,

Megan

Megan

611 Mill St
Horicon WI 53032
September 20th, 2010

Dear Candidates for Governor,

My name is Emma, and I am a seventh grade and I am a student at Van Brunt School in Horicon, Wisconsin. Our teacher, Mrs. Reinecke, is teaching us about the governor's race. I would like to address some needs that children and families in Wisconsin have.

The next governor of Wisconsin really needs to look at the way schools are being funded. I think Schools should have enough textbooks for everyone. Many times they stay in the room and students share. Also we should have laptops instead of desktops, it would save paper and pencils, which would cost less money for the government and students families. Schools should also have current technology; it would also be nice to have more equipment for the gym.

Another problem that the government should look at is helping students afford college. College costs continues to increase, even though many people are out of work or struggling just to make a living. The next

governor needs to address the rising costs of college. Students around Wisconsin are struggling to afford college, so the next governor should help them.

The children and families in the state of Wisconsin have some needs that the next governor should consider. The next governor should look at the schools funding. They should also look at the costs for colleges. Many schools and families are struggling and the next governor should be concerned about helping them.

Sincerely,

Emma

611 Mill Street
Horicon, Wisconsin 53032
September 20th, 2010

Dear Candidates for Governor,

I am a seventh grade student who attends Van Brunt Middle School in Horicon, Wisconsin. I am in Mrs. Reinecke's Social Studies class. We are learning about politics and elections in our classroom. Also, Wisconsin has many issues that need to be recognized.

I have some concerns I would like to address regarding the children and families of Wisconsin. Some families are struggling with money. They are struggling because a parent or both parents lost their jobs. This makes it hard for some families to pay bills, get food, or pay for gas. So I think that the government should provide more jobs. They should do this by saving money and making more jobs available to more people.

Another concern of mine is for the schools. The playgrounds at schools can sometimes be unsafe. Also some schools computers are out of date and need to be more modern. Some kids start to type their homework at school but they cannot continue it at home because the computers are different generations. But if the government sets aside some money for

schools to improve their playgrounds and computers schools can be safer and more modern.

Also I would like to mention how buildings are taking up wild life. The more and more buildings that get put up the less and less wildlife we have for recreation. With less wildlife hunters cannot hunt as much as they could before. Also farmers will not be able to farm as much as they could before. Some families depend on hunting and farming for some area for buildings, another area for hunting, and an area for farming the problem would be solved.

I would also like to address that some people need wheelchairs, walkers, or canes and it is harder for them to get around. Also it takes people with wheelchairs, walkers, or canes longer than the average person to move about their day. So if we would have a separate line at festivals for people with those items to get around then lines would be shorter and it would be easier for those people.

Wisconsin has many issues that need to be recognized. Some of the issues are that some families are struggling for their needs. Also the schools need better computers and safer playgrounds. Another concern is that buildings are destroying the wildlife. Finally, it takes people with

wheelchairs, walkers, and canes longer to get around. These are some ways we could improve the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ciara".

Ciara