

February 27, 2002

To whom it may concern:

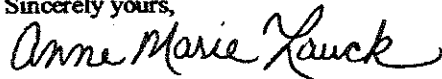
I have recently heard from my friend and coach, Dr. Dick Brown, about his interest in starting a foundation which would create the perfect environment for suitable high school graduates who not only want to attain Olympic stature in the middle and long distance track and field events, but who also strive to become future Olympic medallists in their respective events. My name is Anne Marie Lauck, and I am a two-time Olympian (10th in the 1996 Olympic Marathon and participant in the 2000 Olympic 5000m in track and field). I am also a four-time finalist in the 10,000m at the World Track and Field Championships (1991, 1993, 1995, and 1999). I am thrilled to hear about Dr. Brown's vision of a foundation that will mold our future middle and long distance running hopefuls in a patient and correct manner, and I fully support it.

Success at distance running demands long-term planning on an individualized level. The athlete needs a coach who understands them and is willing to work with them and their particular needs. Through time and patience the athlete can accomplish goals that were set from a specific program. Long term goals such as becoming an Olympic medallist are the products of a strong program that the athlete continually builds off of. Other important elements in a successful program involve having a close network of people such as doctors, therapists, and trainers who keep the best interests of the athlete in mind. Our collegiate track and field programs seem to destroy more Olympic hopefuls than they produce in respect to middle and long distance running. My own personal experiences can attest to this. Even though I was talented enough to receive a full scholarship to a nationally ranked division I university, I encountered nothing but injury, frustration, and turmoil during my 2 ½ years there. I finally found the strength to leave and returned home to live with my parents, attend college but not run on the team, and continue to pursue my dream of becoming a world class distance runner. My new coach at the time was the director of a local Nike club and he gave me the individual coaching and support that I so desperately needed. I soon made huge breakthroughs with my running and thrived off of this system even though it totally went against the status quo. I was happy, healthy, and confident taking "the road less traveled." I'm telling you this piece of my past because what I chose to do is essentially what Dr. Brown envisions for his program. I needed to get away from the collegiate athletic system and I did, but it was not an easy task for me. The foundation would create a suitable and appealing environment for those special athletes out there who, as I did, dream big and have that insatiable passion to conquer challenge and make their dreams into reality.

I have known Dr. Brown for over a decade and had asked him to coach me in early 1999 following a running injury, which eventually needed surgery. Though I had always known Dick as a very likable and kind man, when we started working together I was amazed at how much he listened to what I had to say. He is extremely patient and selfless. He wants a close, honest, and open coach/athlete bond. His best interests are for the particular athlete. Like an artist he wants to mold the athlete into a beautiful work of art and he has both the knowledge and patience to create champions. He took me in 1999 from being a frustrated athlete who struggled to stay healthy and motivated to running one of the best races of my career at the national championships in the 10,000m. That race qualified me for the World Championships. The following year I made the 5000m Olympic team. I should rephrase that and say "we" made the Olympic team, because I could not have done that without him.

I encourage your support for the foundation and I hope that there will be many prospective donors who can help make Dr. Brown's vision a reality. I want to help out as well, and I invite any potential donor to contact me if they have any questions or comments that need to be addressed. This foundation is exciting news for our future in American middle and long distance running success.

Sincerely yours,



Anne Marie Lauck