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March 2, 2007

Dear Family and Friends of Small Steps Nurturing Center,

The kindergarten students in The Green Room (Depelchin Campus) invite you to help them help other children. After reading *Listen to the Wind*, by Greg Mortenson and Susan L. Roth, the students decided to collect Pennies for Peace to purchase school supplies for the children of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Together they wrote the attached letter.

Listen to the Wind tells the real life story of Greg Mortenson, who failed to climb the mountain K2, but who came away from the village of Korphe promising to return to build a school for the children. Because of his efforts and the efforts of children all over the world, students in the Pakistan and Afghanistan regions have new schools with new school supplies.

Children from all over the world help by collecting and donating pennies. A penny in the United States doesn't even buy a piece of gum, but in Pakistan and Afghanistan, one penny buys a pencil, and one dollar funds a child's education for a month.
Listen to the Wind

A penny can change a life! Imagine the change when we all pitch in together. A penny can open up the world through reading and writing for students who otherwise might find little hope. Dig into the bottom of your pocket or purse. Check under the sofa cushions. Invite others you know to join the students.

Pennies for Peace (www.penniesforpeace.org) is a program of Central Asia Institute (CAI), founded by Greg Mortenson – author of the #1 New York Times best seller, *Three Cups of Tea*. CAI is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that promotes and provides community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Central Asia. Founded in 1996, CAI has built, to date, nearly 100 schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which serve more than 28,000 students – over 14,000 of whom are girls.

If you have any questions about our Pennies for Peace effort, please feel free to contact me, Denise Wilborn, at 713-862-1020 or greenleaf@ssnc.org.

The students will collect pennies until Friday, March 27.

The children who are students at Small Steps today are the leaders of tomorrow. What a wonderful way to begin their careers in leadership by helping others. Through their help, the promise of peace and hope is shared.

Sincerely,

Denise Wilborn
Pre-K and K Lead Teacher
Small Steps Nurturing Center/Depelchin Campus