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**THE BERKSHIRE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
PREMIERS LOCAL STORY ABOUT 9/11 FAMILY.**

(April 29, 2009) – The Berkshire International Film Festival presents their first ever work in progress screening of *Axis of Good: A Story from 9/11*. A 45 minute section of the documentary will screen on Sunday, May 17, 2009 at 4 p.m.

Axis of Good: A Story from 9/11 chronicles the efforts of Berkshire County parents as they build a school for girls in Loghar, Afghanistan to honor their son Peter Goodrich, who died aboard United Airlines Flight 175. Don Goodrich, a North Adams attorney, and Sally Goodrich, a Title 1 coordinator for the North Adams School District, created the Peter M. Goodrich Memorial Trust Fund, which has helped raise money to support a multitude of missionary projects in Afghanistan, as well as sponsor Afghan Students to study in area schools.

Producer/Director Rick Derby, also a Berkshire County native, first read of the Goodriches in the Berkshire Eagle in 2004. “The work they were doing embodies an expression of humanity that I felt and wanted to be part of. I believe others would also be inspired by Don and Sally. It was essential that their story reach the largest possible audience,” Derby said. “Five years and four hundred hours of footage later, we’re delighted to share a bit of Don and Sally’s remarkable and emotional journey.”

The Goodrich’s interest in Afghanistan came from an unexpected source, Peter’s childhood friend and neighbor, Marine Major Rush Filson. In August of 2004, Major Filson was stationed in Afghanistan and joined Operation Enduring Freedom. A week into his first deployment, Major Filson delivered donations to a school of 300 students that had eight teachers, but almost no school supplies, no roof and a principal who was receiving death threats. Major Filson wrote an e-mail home asking his mother to send school supplies. Don and Sally read his poetic request and discovered a cause that both served the spirit of their son’s life and would loosen the grip of unrelenting grief that had engulfed them.

The entire crew of *Axis of Good* has roots in the Berkshires. Rick Derby graduated from Wahconah Regional High School and has worked as a producer, director, editor and writer in documentary film, news, and independent and studio feature films for over 25 years. Mike Calvin and Robert Wedge, Co-Producers, both graduates from MLCA, have dedicated endless hours documenting the Goodrich family, often spending holidays at the Goodriches. Jason Stant, Co-Producer, Williamstown native, brings his many years of production experience to the documentary from dramatic television series, to numerous

feature films and commercials. Professor David Edwards at Williams College has served as a consultant to the film.

Axis of Good: A Story from 9/11 also focuses on Sally Goodrich's efforts to bridge cultural divides. The film presents more than a simple story of hope and inspiration; it captures the invisible connections between nations that appear at deadly odds.

Don and Sally Goodrich and Producer/Director Rick Derby will attend the screening and are available for a question and answer discussion after the screening.

For interviews, contact:

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ABOUT THE BERKSHIRE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: The Berkshire International Film Festival aims to create a world-class festival as an integral part of the cultural fabric of the Berkshires. BIFF will showcase not only the latest in independent feature, documentary, short, and family films but also lively panel discussions and special events focusing on filmmakers and talented artists from both sides of the camera.

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