

Educator, advocate passes on at 65

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BENNINGTON, Vt. -- Sarah "Sally" W. Goodrich, the Vermont woman whose son was killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and who later established a foundation to promote education in Afghanistan, has died. She was 65.

According to an obituary notice, Goodrich died at her Bennington home on Saturday. A service will be held Thursday at 3 p.m. at Old First Church in Bennington.

An educator with the North Adams (Mass.) Public Schools system, she oversaw the work of the Peter M. Goodrich Memorial Foundation, which works in Afghanistan to support education and other services for the people there. She also co-founded Families of September 11th.

She and her husband, attorney Donald W. Goodrich, established the foundation in memory of her son, Peter, who was aboard United Airlines Flight 175 when it was hijacked and flown into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

The Goodriches' call to arms came in August 2004, when Marine Maj. Rush Filson, a childhood friend of their late son, e-mailed them during a tour of duty in Afghanistan. When the Goodriches read Filson's description of the teachers and students crowded in a dirt floor shelter and with no money for supplies,

the Peter M. Goodrich Memorial Foundation was born.

"The problem with 9/11 is that all the victims are remembered in the way they died. This is forever a concern of ours," Sally Goodrich said in an interview

with The Berkshire Eagle at the time. "We hope that the work we do with the foundation memorializes his life, not his death."

The foundation's work in Afghanistan has included building a school for girls in Loghar, the construction of a water reservoir, supporting two other schools and 55 orphans in Wardak, and has brought numerous children to study in the United States. The foundation also funded sustainable farming and health care initiatives in Afghanistan. Sally Goodrich and her husband made numerous trips to visit the country.

The foundation was featured by numerous media organizations, including in a Sept. 11, 2010, article in Boston Globe magazine. A documentary, "Axis of Good: A Story From 9/11" by producer and director Rick Derby, also was created.

Goodrich, who had battled cancer, also was a founding and advisory board member of Our Voices Together, a nonprofit network founded in 2005 by Sept. 11 families and friends to promote people-to-people efforts around the world.

For her efforts, Goodrich received several honors locally, including the 2007 Peacemaker Award from the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition and the 43rd Woman of Achievement by the Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women.

She is survived by her husband; a daughter, Kim Trimarchi; a son, Foster; three brothers; five

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grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

The Mahar & Son Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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