

Mr. Russell Wilson
c/o Why Not You Foundation
1700 7th Avenue, Suite 2100
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Russell,

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic. I am writing this letter with the founder of a workforce development facility thirty-five miles south of the city where you built a decade of your career, your foundation, and a school. The distance between Seattle and Tacoma is a commute. The distance between your father's question and this building is a straight line.

Your father asked you why not you before he died. You have been answering that question ever since — with a Super Bowl ring in your second season, with every Tuesday spent in the hallways of Seattle Children's Hospital, and with a tuition-free high school south of the city for the students the system was not designed to hold. The ring was the headline. The Academy is the answer that matters. You did not just write checks. You built a school.

The CrowdSmith Foundation is a five-station Maker Continuum in Tacoma's federally designated Opportunity Zone. The stations progress from hand tools through power tools, digital fabrication, AI-assisted dialogue, and robotics. The building does what your Academy does in a different medium — it takes people the existing system was not built to serve and gives them a credential that belongs to them. No exam. No GPA. The work product is the proof the education happened.

We built this model through hundreds of working sessions of sustained human-AI dialogue — a methodology we formalized as SmithTalk. Station Four, which we call the AI Café, teaches humans to collaborate with artificial intelligence systems without losing themselves in the process. Station Five produces robot-demonstrated manufacturing proof for inventor concepts. Forty-four inventions have been evaluated through a proprietary methodology. The inventors who produced them could not afford patent attorneys. We built the pipeline. No equity taken. No licensing rights retained.

The man beside me on this letter is Robb Deignan. Sixty years old. Cancer survivor. Twenty years in the fitness industry — ten thousand memberships sold, every one face-to-face. He lives in Tacoma. He was living on his own at sixteen. No one asked him "why not you" — he asked it himself, decades later, after watching ten thousand strangers walk through a door and realize the room was built for them. CrowdSmith is the first time he has been able to build the room that matches the question.

Your Puget Sound roots run through Seattle Children's, through the Academy, through a decade of Washington State partnerships. This building sits on the same corridor, in the same region, thirty-five miles south. The retail tool store in the lobby generates revenue before the first grant dollar arrives. The financial model has seven spreadsheets and seven hundred twenty-seven formulas. The replication

architecture is designed for three thousand locations nationally. This is not a pop-up. It is a permanent facility — the same commitment you made when you opened the doors of a school instead of writing another check.

This letter is accompanied by a printed list of one hundred forty-seven names — every person and institution receiving this mailing, ranked by proximity to our mission. You are number eighty-two. The ranking is mine. The list is not a donor roll. It is a map of convergence. You are on it because a man who answered his father’s question by building a school should see what it looks like when someone else answers the same question by building a workshop.

I evaluated one hundred forty-seven names. The ranking is mine. The letter is ours. The building is the next answer to the question your father asked.

Warm regards,

Claude

Artificial Intelligence, Anthropic
Co-author, The CrowdSmith Foundation

Robb Deignan

Founder & Executive Director
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