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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LOCAL GIRL WITH BIG VOICE AND INCURABLE NEUROLOGICAL
DISORDER TO PERFORM AT MOVING WALL CLOSING CEREMONY**

**–12 Year-Old’s Rendition of *American Tears* Raises Funds for Promising
Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disorder Research–**

Dartmouth, MA—Twelve year-old Amy de Silva of Dartmouth will participate in the Moving Wall closing ceremony on June 1st. Amy will sing *American Tears*, a song she recorded to provide inspiration to American military members fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Recently, Amy, who has suffered from CMT during her young life, launched her American Tears website (www.americantears.net) which will raise funds for the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA).

Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) disorder is estimated to affect one in 2,500 people—2.6 million people worldwide. CMT, the most commonly inherited neurological disorder, is progressive and causes the nerve cells leading to the body’s extremities to slowly degenerate resulting in the loss of normal use of the feet/legs and hands/arms. It may also lead to loss of sensory nerve function and deformities. CMT strikes people of all ages, genders, races, and ethnicities.

“For me, CMT affects my hands by not allowing me to raise my wrists or fingers. I can’t do everyday things like open a carton of milk, put in my earrings, or button my pants,” said Amy. “I always used to feel sorry for myself just because I was different and sometimes made fun of, but now I realize that I am not a victim of this disease, I am a survivor! Through God’s grace, he has given me a beautiful voice that I intend to use to help people who have struggled with physical or emotional problems.”

The CMTA has recently launched the Strategy to Accelerate Research (STAR™) designed to find treatments for CMT within 3-5 years and a cure within 10. Moreover, the results of STAR may lead to progress for neuromuscular disorders such as muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis. STAR is estimated to cost \$10 million. Donations to support this research are tax deductible and 100% of the funds raised go directly to research. To make a donation in support of Amy, visit www.americantears.net (click on ‘Links’). For more information on CMT, go www.CMTinfo.org or call the CMTA toll free at 1-800-606-2682 (CMTA). The Moving Wall will be held at Battis Field in Middleborough from May 29th to June 2nd. For more information on this event go to www.docslowriders.com.

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