

Shimmy Mehta

2007 Distinguished Graduate Class of 1993

In 1999 Mr. Shimmy Mehta founded the Internet-driven, nonprofit organization, ANGELWISH.ORG. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Angelwish, whose mission is to provide the public with convenient and rewarding opportunities granting individual wishes of children living with HIV/AIDS all over the world. There have been 35,000 wishes granted since its inception and a network of over 80 HIV/AIDS care centers have been created in the United States. In addition, Angelwish is working with 32 HIV/AIDS clinics in 24 countries on 6 continents.

As part of their activities, Angelwish enlists the help of the Boy and Girl Scout Troops in Rutherford, taking them on "Giving Sprees" at Toys R Us stores. They shop every three months for toys that satisfy the "wish lists" supplied by AIDS impacted children in care centers all over the United States. Last December, Angelwish stepped in at the last minute to assist with the Holiday Gift Drive sponsored by the *Today Show*. This summer, Angelwish will be hosting the Angelwish WIFFLE Ball Classic Series in Hoboken, NJ.

Mr. Mehta was the recipient of the 1809th Point of Light Award issued by George W. Bush. He was also honored with the Russ Berrie Award for Making a Difference, and was a finalist for the Volvo for Life Award.

Prior to Angelwish, Mr. Mehta was a Manager of Independence Audit Compliance at PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City. It was through his experience in the business world that he saw the need for a simple and rewarding way for busy people to get involved in the community. He tapped into his network of contacts and mentors to incorporate, develop, and promote this unprecedented concept of digital philanthropy.

Mr. Shimmy Mehta graduated from Rutgers University School of Management and College of Arts and Sciences with a BS in Accounting in May 1997. His interest in helping children living with HIV/AIDS began in college when he learned that Newark had the 5th largest AIDS population in the country, prompting him to organize the TKE Challenge for Pediatric AIDS, which was a 3-day, 300-mile cycling event throughout the state that provided a unique way for his fraternity to get involved.