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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Immigrant realizes dream by preserving memories

(Puyallup, WA) American history is fraught with examples of people coming to this land in search of better opportunities and to realize the American dream. In Puyallup lives a man who is an example of that American dream coming true – with a slight twist. Coming to America with only his clothes and some photographs, Chris McKenna immigrated to the United States with his family in the 1970's and is now fulfilling his dream of preserving his family's memories. "We cherish the photographs and movies that my parents brought with them; they are the only link to our family left in Ireland," says Chris. "Saving those pictures for my children and future generations has been a dream of mine ever since I can remember."

"When I was a child I remember watching the slideshows that my father would create," reminisces Chris. "We couldn't wait to see pictures of our relatives and the places we came from. And now, we're no longer able to visit those people and places as most of those photos and our home movies have either deteriorated beyond repair or have been lost."

What most people don't realize is that movie film and photographs do not last forever. A recent study suggests that half of all home movies filmed before 1950 are lost without recovery, with more and more vanishing every day. VHS tape and its variants are now also failing, some at an even faster rate than 8mm and 16mm film. Sadly, many photographs and slides are following the same path.

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To prevent any more of their precious memories from being lost, Chris and his wife, Lynette, recently invested in professional video equipment that will transfer all their photos and slides, as well as their remaining 8mm and VHS home movies, to DVD. And they started McKenna Video Services, a small home-based business that can do the same for others. States Chris, "My family went to great lengths to store our photos and movies correctly, and if our photos and home movies can be lost, anyone else's can. We want to stop that from happening."

In addition to their equipment, the McKenna's traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for training by a team of experts from Home Video Studio, Inc., the nation's largest association of home-based video studios. Along with the extensive training they received on their new professional equipment, Chris and Lynette were trained how to use one of the most powerful software packages available for capturing and preserving memories, Apple's Final Cut Pro™. "It was intense, but it will go a long way to help people save their treasured memories," says Lynette McKenna of their training. "This training allows us to capture photos, add music, narration, and special effects, and present memorable and affordable keepsake videos to our customers."

The system seems to be working well for the McKenna's. They recently traveled to Kentucky to capture these memories for one family's reunion and were able to offer a photo/video keepsake to every member of that family.

Chris says, "I know that my American dream may seem slightly unconventional, certainly not the typical dream for most people, but passing on these personal slices of history is important to me. I hope that by starting this company and offering the services we do, we can help others keep their photos and movies around for many generations to come."

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