



November 2009

Dear Friends,

Twenty-four years ago a beautiful baby girl came into our lives. Our "pink and white, sleeps through the night" daughter had all ten fingers and all ten toes. When she didn't do all the things that other babies her age did, we starting asking questions. The answers were not ones any parent ever wants to hear. Lauren had severe, multiple delays in all areas of her development. In other words, she would be facing very serious challenges for the rest of her life.

After the first few years of trying to meet all of Lauren's needs ourselves, we reached out to SCARC. They were able to provide us with a few hours each week of respite, a break from the stress of raising a child with significant disabilities. SCARC's Family Support Services provided a trained caregiver with whom we could safely leave our daughter while we grabbed some dinner or ran errands. Sometimes knowing there would be a few hours break at the end of the week got us through very difficult days of multiple seizures, depressing medical visits, and never-ending care.

When Lauren turned eighteen, we needed to acquire guardianship of our own child so that we could legally make decisions for her and could represent her under strict privacy regulations. It is difficult to be told that you have to go through a legal process in order to, basically, continue being parents to your child. SCARC Guardianship Services held our hands and walked us through their Pro Se Legal Advocacy Program and made this process as painless as possible.

At twenty-one, Lauren had reached the end of her high school years and needed to make the transition to adult services. SCARC Transition Services helped her high school get Lauren ready to leave the education system where she had spent her days for eighteen years. They worked with the school and us to help Lauren achieve the adult life that best suited her needs and interests.

Today, Lauren is a young woman of twenty-four who is involved in her community and leading a life that makes her happy. Though Lauren has many challenges and requires total care in all aspects of her daily life, that life has value and purpose. The steady presence of SCARC has helped us get to this point. They have offered support, information, and ongoing services throughout Lauren's life.

Families, like ours, who desperately need services, are now facing long waiting lists and cutbacks in services because of our state budget woes. SCARC is working hard to meet these families' needs, but they need help. At this time when we are all faced with the effects of our faltering economy, we ask that you consider helping SCARC to assist these families who are trying to meet the diverse and overwhelming needs of their family members with developmental disabilities.

Your generous contribution to the SCARC Foundation of \$100, \$250, \$500 - or whatever you can afford - will make a difference in the life of a person with a developmental disability and make it possible for these families to make it through another week, another crisis, or another demand on their already overstressed lives.

As you plan to celebrate this season with your own family, consider a gift that would help SCARC provide the services that will bring a bit of peace and joy into the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

George & Gail Frizzell

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P.S. Your donation to the SCARC Foundation is entirely tax deductible.
Please send your gift before December 31st, so that people with developmental disabilities in our community can benefit immediately.
Thank You!

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