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October 24, 2019

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Dear Friend of SCARC:

As we begin the season of giving, we are writing to thank you for your generous support of the SCARC Foundation in the past and to ask you to consider making a financial contribution to this year's annual appeal. Your commitment to people with developmental disabilities is making a difference and really changing lives.

The SCARC Foundation has been a true blessing for our family. Our second child Michael, was born in 1991 and we noticed that he was not developing as his older brother had. After many frustrating visits to various specialists, Michael was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy which causes developmental delays, seizures, low muscle tone, impaired intellectual capacity and very limited speech. Prior to turning 2 years old, Michael started private speech lessons as well as early intervention classes. He attended Sussex-Wantage schools and High Point High School in their self-contained classrooms.

At age 12, we learned about SCARC and Michael started his first program, Just Us Kids, a Saturday respite program. He later attended the Summer Experience program, a 2 week very active summer camp for several summers while he was in high school. This program was the highlight of Michaels' summer every year! Our family also utilized SCARC Guardianship Services to obtain legal guardianship of Michael once he turned 18. We could never have navigated this complicated legal process without SCARC's assistance.

After Michael graduated high school, he started in the Harvest Home Foods day program at SCARC. He has since transitioned over to the Explorer day program in Sparta. The SCARC Explorer program provides opportunities for individuals who enjoy interactive and creative activities that promote personal development and community inclusion.

As an Explorer, Michael is out in the community every day learning new skills such as: a gourmet cooking, trips to Mountain Creek Waterpark, volunteering at a local soup kitchen and book club at the Sussex County Library. Michael has built relationships with local businesses and professionals, bonded with his peers and made a difference in the lives of those in his community. He comes home every day with a huge smile on his face. Every morning, we are on the driveway early, regardless of the weather conditions, as he is so excited for the van to arrive to pick him up so he can go to "work" just like the rest of the family.

Michael is now 28 years old and has been enjoying many of the high quality services that SCARC offers for the last 16 years. We simply can't say enough good things about SCARC and all the selfless, friendly, fabulous staff that we have had the honor to interact with over the years.

Raising a child with special needs has many challenges and the constant stressor of ensuring that your disabled child is supervised at all times and safe while you balance work, chores, medical appointments, etc. Knowing that our son is at his day program and enjoying his co-workers and supervisors and having meaningful experiences independently is so comforting! Michael is proud to go to his "work" and that he too can be an active part of the Sussex County community.

Since 1985, the SCARC Foundation has been fulfilling the ongoing needs of SCARC and SCARC Guardianship Services. Today with your help, the SCARC family of services is able to provide recreation programs including summer camp experiences, basketball, swimming, bowling, & dances; respite care which provides a much needed break for families who have a child with a disability; and guardianship services which helps guide families through the complicated process of becoming the legal guardian for their disabled family member. In addition, SCARC provides a county wide network of 22 residential homes, 7 supportive living apartments, 8 employment and activity day programs, including the Harvest Home program which provides food to 600 needy children and adults each month and many family support services. This year, SCARC will provide services to over 500 people with developmental disabilities and their families.

We speak both for ourselves as parents and for Michael as we encourage everyone to support this wonderful organization that so faithfully serves our local disabled individuals and their families. SCARC services are simply the best and deserve our financial support. **Please consider a gift to the SCARC Foundation Annual Appeal of \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000** --- or whatever fits into your budget. Also, keep in mind that your donation is tax deductible and can be made via credit card online at <http://bit.ly/SCARCAnnualAppeal>

On behalf of The SCARC Foundation, we wish you and your families a safe, healthy and peaceful holiday season. As we celebrate our blessings this holiday season, let us remember that giving is the greatest gift of all.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann & Richard St. John

**SCARC Foundation – Annual Appeal Campaign**

- \$1,000 Benefactor**
- \$500 Friend of SCARC**
- \$250 Supporter**
- \$100 Contributor**
- Other Donation** \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to include SCARC in my estate plan**
- This gift is made in memory or in honor of:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My company has a Matching Gift Program.  
Enclosed is my matching gift form.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to SCARC Foundation, Inc. and return with this form in the envelope provided.**

**OR**

Credit Card:  Visa  MasterCard  Amex  Discover

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generous support!**