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October 24, 2020

Board of Trustees

Dear Friend of SCARC:

Chairperson

Gary Larson.

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.

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When our son, Andrew, was two years old, he received an autism diagnosis. We were in shock and overwhelmed. Fortunately, we soon learned of SCARC, and he began to receive SCARC’s respite services. This included the Just Us Kids program on Saturdays where Andrew could practice social skills with his peers, and get out into the community and engage in various activities. It was through Just Us Kids that Andrew first tried horseback riding, an activity he continues to enjoy.

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In high school, SCARC provided transition services as Andrew prepared to move on from the school setting. Through SCARC, Andrew was able to obtain part-time employment at a local car dealership filing work orders and invoices. At the same time, Andrew was able to complete his associate’s degree at Sussex Co. Community College. But then we hit a dead end. His position was eliminated and there were no other local higher educational opportunities. We again turned to SCARC, and Andrew began attending the Eickmann Center. This is just one of SCARC’s day programs and it offers opportunities to build workplace skills, socialization and community interaction.

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About four years ago when he was 27, Andrew indicated that he would like to live independently from us. We discussed various options with him, and he said his preference was to live in a SCARC group home. We were very fortunate that space became available, and Andrew moved into the Hillside Group Home. He loves it there and enjoys the camaraderie with the other guys. The staff is well trained, enthusiastic and compassionate. Before Covid-19, they were able to get out in the community for meals and events, and participate in SCARC’s recreation activities. Last summer they even took a short vacation in Wildwood, NJ, where they had a blast!

Directors Emeritus

- James Drew
- Susan Romano
- Douglas White

Of course, beginning this past March, we have all had to hunker down as Covid spread. We discussed with Andrew whether he should move back home. We all agreed that he would be better off staying at Hillside with his friends. SCARC has done a superb job of keeping residents and staff safe. SCARC has also made sure that everyone who had been participating in a day program has access to a daily virtual program using Zoom. SCARC was one of the first organizations to do this, and has continued to provide leadership and guidance to other agencies. Andrew has really enjoyed this opportunity to see his friends and learn new things.

Raising a child with a disability provides many challenges, but also great satisfactions. In addition to making sure that Andrew received the appropriate education and services, we have to plan for that time when we can no longer help him. SCARC Guardianship has been a blessing to us. They helped us to obtain guardianship when he turned 18, and they will take over as his guardian when we are unable.

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. This year, SCARC will provide services to over 500 people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Our family is very fortunate to have SCARC and SCARC Guardianship in our lives. Not only does SCARC provide first class services, but everyone who works at SCARC is so talented, dedicated and compassionate. We are grateful for the continuing support that the SCARC Foundation has provided to SCARC and SCARC Guardianship, which has enabled all of these meaningful programs, opportunities, and facilities for Andrew and so many others.

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/SCARCAppeal>

On behalf of The SCARC Foundation, we wish you and your families a safe, healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,



Alice & Andy Sharick

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:

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

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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

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Signature _____ Zip Code _____

Thank you for your generous support!