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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.

Our son Craig was born 54 years ago and soon thereafter was diagnosed with Autism and Brian Damage. Although so diagnosed, at the time, there weren't any solutions nor therapies recommended to us – nor were any available in those days. We searched far and wide for any suitable programs but most that were available turned out to be little more than group babysitting.

When Craig was 4, our town introduced an early learning program that was staffed with a variety of talented and interested professionals. Craig attended that program until age 9, when he aged out of the program. We now had to search for a suitable, residential setting that would provide continued advancement in all aspects of his social and academic education.

At the age of 10, we managed to enroll Craig in a school program. It was located in a farming community, complete with all aspects of a free and loving environment rich in crafts and other "hands on" activities, as well as in school learning. All programs were carefully balanced with home and physical exercise.

Now 20 years old, a new more serious life was to begin for Craig. We, and a handful of other parents, found the perfect "next step" for our sons and daughters in a rural residential community located in southern New Hampshire. This program was ideal in many ways, and gave him a solid beginning as an adult. Craig matured quite a lot in the nineteen years at this program, but due to serious staffing shortages and the rising costs associated, the program reduced the ranks of the less able. So, we set out again to find Craig a suitable "Life care" program in northern New Jersey, our home state.

The search for a suitable place seemed almost hopeless when the Director of a different Arc program recommended that we contact SCARC in Sussex County. We did, and were amazed by the number of different programs and Group Homes that comprised the organization.

The attention afforded to Craig and ourselves by SCARC’s managers was remarkable, and they were able to place him in just the right day program – SCARC’s Clark Center- a program which Craig participates in to this day. The Clark Center offers individuals an opportunity to learn skills related to activities of daily living, self-help and socialization. Individuals have access to craft and computer based activities as well as a quiet area for needed down time.

Months later, SCARC was able to make available the perfect “little” room (ideal for Autistic afflicted persons) in their Newton Group Home, where he has lived ever since. Craig has prospered, and is now an integral part of the home, together with his fellow residents and their caring and wonderful staff. Although the ongoing COVID pandemic caused huge upheavals and changes throughout SCARC, the management team and staff continued to provide for and protect every one of their residents in each of their homes.

Our family is very fortunate to have SCARC family of services 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 so many individuals with developmental disabilities.

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,



Marge & Klaus Merkle

**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!**