



We Care... We Listen... We Help

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A Word from our Director

In December 2015, The Center for Family Support Foundation Board met for the first time. It was a personal goal of mine to recruit a Foundation Board so I would have others to help me raise the almighty dollar. I understand that asking people for money is not something everyone is comfortable with. Asking people for money is a skill, but it is also a type of mindset. The individuals who have joined the Foundation Board have that willingness to ask for money. They don't take it personally if someone says no. You can't take it personally, because if you do, you'll never ask anyone for anything.

Believe me when I tell you that all of the "no's" are worth it when you hear the word "YES"! Knowing that I have people working with me in the trenches, helping in the donor identification and cultivation process, is a great comfort to me. We're building a Foundation Team that will help to expand our outreach and bring in new dollars to the organization. We'll be providing new resources to allow the CFS staff to continue the vital and important work they are doing on a daily basis.

The Center for Family Support Foundation and its Board are ready, willing and able to find that next donor, cultivate that next prospect and broaden the fundraising landscape. And we do this for one reason and one reason only; to improve the quality of life for those we serve.

Sincerely,

Barry

Barry Haber



Director of Development



The Center for Family Support

Dear Friends,

The Center for Family Support has become an important part of our lives and the life of our daughter, Emily.

Emily was born almost 27 years ago. It was a normal pregnancy and she received an Apgar score of 10. At birth she seemed to have low tone and two dislocated hips. Due to this condition, at six months old, Emily was placed in a brace, which caused delays in her ability to walk and talk. At around 2 ½ years of age, we sensed it was something more. Although Emily has never been diagnosed with any sort of syndrome or specific disability other than an intellectual disability, she has many traits of other disabilities. It was hard being new parents with no sort of benchmark to measure milestones.

At first my husband and I were determined that “whatever this was” had to have a name. “This” had to have a cure. We spent many months and years traveling the United States for a “cure”. After many doctors, frustrating visits and no answers, we decided that whatever the disability, the treatment would be the same: physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy.



We are very grateful for all of the joy Emily brings us every day. She is the happiest person we know. Emily is always up for anything, very curious and very, very social. With all of the wonderful qualities she has, we also fear that she can be very vulnerable. She is not a good judge of social circumstances or people.

We came to The Center for Family Support (CFS) about three years ago when Emily aged out of the educational system and we heard about Self Direction. We thought it was a good idea to create an Individual plan just for her. Emily wants to have a life much like her other siblings. She wants to work and live with her friend Will. Linda Schellenberg from The Center for Family Support was amazing to work with. She was creative, patient, knowledgeable and passionate. All of us agreed that Emily’s life had purpose and we would work together to establish her goals and her independence.



The Center for Family Support



Linda had so much faith in Emily. We developed a Self-Directed life for her. In that life, Emily is able to attend her Day Hab program at AHRC. The Day Hab Program works as a good transition, providing friendships and volunteer job experience. Each day after Day Hab, Emily attends programs like YOGA, exercise, music and dance. She is also able to attend camp in the summer and trips throughout the year with the funds provided in herself-Direction budget.

One of the most important parts of Self-Direction, we feel, is that she gets to choose her own staff. It is really important that staff is reliable and caring. Emily will always need 24 hour staff support. The staff helps her work on the goals of her Self-Direction Plan. For example, in Emily's case, they help her shop for groceries, travel on the train, use appropriate social behavior, cook, do laundry, and the list goes on. They are also instrumental in accompanying Emily to her various activities. Emily hopes to get her own apartment one day soon and all of this work will be invaluable.

Because of Linda Schellenberg, Helene Smigiel and all of the staff at The Center for Family Support, this could not have happened. They share the same sort of devotion and thoughtfulness. The Center for Family Support itself feels like a real family. In this very complicated world for people with disabilities and their families, The Center for Family Support makes it their mission to guide families through the language and obstacles that stand in our way.

Your continued investment in the work of CFS will help Emily and other service recipients participating in the Self-Direction Program live the lives they choose to live. The Center for Family Support has been a vital and important resource for so many families for over 60 years. Please help support this wonderful organization and allow them to provide the programs and services so many families count on.

We are so grateful to have found CFS and encourage families to get involved and advocate for their children and the services they need. Thank You!!

Cecilia & Jim Dellow
Sincerely,



Planning for 2016 Golf Outing Underway!

On Tuesday September 27th, CFS will be holding its 16th Annual Golf Outing at Edgewood Country Club in River Vale, NJ. The Golf Committee is looking forward to another successful event.

This year, there are three new members of the committee; David Mittelman, President & COO of The Oberman Companies, Steve Ortiz, Associate Account Executive with Mutual of America and Max Warner, a member of the CFS Foundation Board and an Account Executive with Spotify. These "rookies" join veteran committee members CFS Board President Lloyd Stabiner, CFS Board members Jeff Benedict and Tanya Herriott and CFS Parent Bud Howey.

Two corporate sponsors have already committed to the September event; Central Business Solutions will be the Golf Cart Sponsor and Omnicare of Chestnut Ridge will be one of the outings Bronze Host Sponsors. TD Bank has again graciously offered to donate 120 sleeves of golf balls for the player give-a-way bags. Some auction prizes have already been secured from the Manhattan Affinia Hotel and Bradford Renaissance Portraits.

The committee is working toward securing 100 golfers to participate this year. At this point in time there are plenty of spots open.

If you are interested in joining us this year, please contact

Barry Haber, Director of Development, at 212-629-7939, Ext. 279 or by e-mail at

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The Center for Family Support



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