

Dear Friend,

Many of us face challenges on life's road: unemployment, poverty, discrimination, advancing age, or disabilities of one sort or the other. But those we serve at Family Service Foundation – individuals with developmental disabilities and adults with chronic or severe mental illness – face a particularly steep climb. It is a path not of their choosing or responsibility.

Those we serve face multiple challenges. Adults experiencing severe mental illness or a developmental disability often also find themselves among the low-income, among the unemployed, and too often the victims of stigma and discrimination. Many have outlived their families. Some rely on us to provide a home and family atmosphere -- to help manage their lives. As an added challenge, many we serve are also Deaf, Deaf-Blind, or Hard-of-Hearing.

For eighty years, we have met the health and social service needs of people facing challenges. But none are more compelling than the needs of those we serve today. But we are not satisfied to look only after their health and safety. Our goal is to help them participate in life – to help them experience family and community – to help them attain the optimum independence for which they are capable.

Family Services Foundation does this through residential services, day programs, community supported living arrangements, and vocational and supported employment services. For those with emotional challenges, we offer residential rehabilitation services, psychiatric day programs, and an outpatient mental health clinic. We pay special attention to the needs of those with hearing difficulties.

But it's more personal. For Darin, it means moving toward independent living with employment support at Home Depot. For Crystal, it means day and vocational help (with American Sign Language assistance) performing job-related filing and organization, leaving time for the singing and dancing she loves to do in her spare time. For Tom, it means behavioral health therapy and medication management in a safe residential setting while he moves progressively toward recovery and independence.

So we have a compelling mission. We also have a caring staff and committed board to carry out that mission. But that is not enough. We need your help. Specifically in this season of giving, we need your financial help. In return, we pledge to be good stewards to those you who invest with us. Last year, 90% of our funds went towards meeting the needs of those we serve. We expended only about 10% of our funds on administration and management. Please help Darin, Crystal, Tom, and the hundreds of others we serve each year. They depend on you.

Sincerely,

Gordon Raley  
CEO

