



December 2008

Dear friend,

"When I first saw the Autism in my son, it felt like my son was drowning and all I could do was to stand on the beach and watch."

Every day the phone at the Autism Project of Rhode Island rings with calls from parents whose children have been newly diagnosed with Autism. Imagine hearing the words your child has autism and slowly watching your once boisterous, chatty child fall into silence. Envision a four year old who still can't utter the words, "I love you, Mommy", or a six year old boy struggling with potty training. Imagine your teenage son with a high IQ being sent home from school, day after day, because he doesn't have the necessary skills to function in a group.

Imagine the diagnosis of Autism.

These stories are only the tip of the iceberg of the impact of Autism on a child and his/her family. Fortunately, thanks to our donors, the Autism Project of Rhode Island has been there to answer these calls as well as provide the necessary supports each family needs to see their child flourish and reach his/her highest potential. For the last eleven years, the Autism Project of Rhode Island has been one of the state's leading resources for families and individuals with Autism.

"From the moment I took the Autism Project of RI's A Starting Point it became very clear, this was not about the things our children could not do. It was about the things they could do."

Each year, the Autism Project of Rhode Island helps more than four thousand individuals. We do this by educating, supporting and training parents, family members and professionals involved in the life of a child living with Autism. We give them hope and opportunity to help their child.

"When I heard that the Autism Project's camp may accept my son with Autism I was delighted at the opportunity to help him escape the summer heat of the city for a week at camp. He never had the chance to go to camp like normal children, his autism, along with his behaviors, always excluded him from other camp programs."

Autism has afflicted so many children and families. The financial impact some families face is tremendous. Funding camp scholarships allows our



kids the opportunity to enjoy all that summer camp has to offer without added financial strain on the family.

"My son was able to participate in different groups including leaps and bounds and karate. These facilitated groups have provided him interactions with other children, structured environment and behavioral support to help him be successful in those settings. He has become more tolerant and regulated to face the typical world."



As we approach the season of giving, we ask that you keep the Autism Project of Rhode Island in mind. In these difficult economic times, your gift is more important than ever to keep us available to the many families facing Autism every day.



It's because of your support that we are able to offer camperships and scholarships to ensure that no one is turned away from camp or parent training because of their inability to pay.



We hope we can count on you to help. What you give today will ensure that we raise the much needed funds to continue our programs tomorrow. Please fill out the enclosed form if you wish to make a donation or visit www.theautismproject.org.



We wish you and your family all the best in the New Year.

Sincerely,



Joanne G. Quinn
Executive Director

