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Dear Family and Friends:

It's hard to believe that a year has gone by since the last time we reached out to you. It's been a year of significant advancements with our daughter, Emily. We are finally "Mommy" and "Daddy"! It's taken 11 years of hard work to finally hear these sweet words.

We have many things to be grateful for – the support of family, friends and our family at The Hagedorn Little Village School. It's been a challenge for all of us, especially Emily who has been struggling since infancy to communicate with us. The Hagedorn Little Village School was instrumental in obtaining a portable computerized communication device which Emily uses daily. By selecting touch-screen pictures of basic needs (people, clothing, places, foods, etc.), Emily is able to speak to us and be understood.

The school's efforts have provided us with the opportunity to see more of "Emily's world". In the summer of 1999, when Emily began attending The Hagedorn Little Village School (located in Seaford, NY) there were no words, only strange noises. Through patience and experience, Emily's teachers and therapists began the slow and arduous process of teaching Emily to speak. Along with the spoken words, we are delighted to inform you that Emily has begun to read as well. Small steps, word by word....progress, at last!

In addition to helping Emily attain these amazing feats, this school has been a source of solace for us and for hundreds of other families with children of similar needs. Little Village's goal is to enable each child to achieve his or her highest potential-socially, educationally, and emotionally. This is accomplished by combining educational and supportive services for families and an ongoing educational/therapeutic program for the children. Little Village's school-based program and ancillary services provide support and services to over 500 families annually throughout Long Island. The philosophy of the organization is to provide the finest educational and therapeutic services for infants and young children who have developmental disabilities such as cognitive delays, emotional disturbances, neurological impairments and/or multiple handicaps.

Eight years ago we decided to raise money for The Hagedorn Little Village School not only to provide financial support but also to raise the awareness in our community that there are many families affected children with disabilities. Together, with a few close friends, we organized the First Annual Sleepy Hollow 5K Charity Race, an event that drew competitive runners, recreational runners and walkers from all over Long Island. This year we will host our 7th race on October 28th. As with all of our events, all of the funds raised will go to the organization that we feel greatly provides Emily and other special-needs children with phenomenal services. Come and enjoy the event with us or support the event by making a donation. Visit our website at [www.CarmanFoundation.com](http://www.CarmanFoundation.com) to register for the event or to make a donation. Whatever you decide to do, know that your support benefits the children and families at The Hagedorn Little Village School.

Warm Regards,

Greg & Lina