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Dear Family and Friends:

Without question, raising a child is the hardest job any one can undertake. It's also the most rewarding. As parents we fret about our child's health and well-being. We eagerly anticipate the critical developmental milestones, often feeling unbelievably proud watching our child complete even the simplest of tasks. Fear always lurks on the periphery – fear that my child may not attain the milestone timely, or at all, especially when seeing other children of the same age who have already attained these milestones. Reassurances are often not enough and terms such as 'slow' and 'delayed' suddenly take on whole new meanings. Although there are ranges for achieving milestones, most children reach them successfully. Some simply take much, much longer.

Developmental milestones are determined by the average age at which children attain each skill, therefore, statistically, about 3% of children will not meet them on time, but only about 15-20% of these children will actually have abnormal development. The rest will eventually develop normally over time, although a little later than expected.

A developmental delay occurs when a child has the delayed achievement of one or more of the milestones. This may affect the child's speech and language, fine and gross motor skills, and/or personal and social skills. Having several delays is considered as global.

Our daughter Emily is afflicted with global developmental delays. In early infancy it became obvious to us that our beautiful baby girl was very different from other infants. The differences began to widen as she got older. She began Early Intervention when she was barely a year old. As every parent with a child with significant delays prays, "Let this program solve the problem!", we did, too. We also found out that we were not alone. As Emily aged, it became apparent to us that the basic milestones were getting farther away and there were some she simply will never reach - she will never attend public school, never have a "normal" life. Our public school simply cannot provide the services she needs and the help we crave.

In the summer of 1999, Emily began attending The Hagedorn Little Village School in Seaford, NY. In addition to helping Emily reach some of these milestones, this school has been a source of solace for us and for hundreds of other families with children of similar needs. We have come to think of the school as an extension of our family.

Little Village's goal is to enable each child to achieve his or her highest potential educationally, emotionally, and socially. 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. These may include cognitive delays, emotional disturbances, autism, neurological, speech-language, orthopedic impairments and/or multiple handicaps. Education and therapeutic programs are designed to guide each child toward achieving his/her highest potential socially, educationally, and emotionally.

Six years ago we decided to raise money for The Hagedorn Little Village School. 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 6th race on October 29. As with all of our races, all of the money raised will go to the organization that we feel greatly provides Emily and other children with special needs with phenomenal services. I am asking for your support in this endeavor.

I ask you to support this worthwhile cause in any way you can. Come and enjoy the event with us or support the event by making a donation. Visit our website at 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