

November 20, 2011

Dear

As a parent, there is nothing more wonderful than seeing your child happy and watching them learn, play, grow and be all they can be.

Eleven years ago I experienced one of the worst moments a parent can have. My heart sank and my hopes and dreams shattered when the specialist told me that my baby Rory had autism. I was filled with fear – of change and of what lay ahead. It felt like my perfect world was gone forever.

My heart ached for Rory. Even at the tender age of two, he had so many challenges to overcome. Being non-verbal, he had to learn to use pictures, point and communicate. He also needed to learn simple skills that others take for granted - to make eye contact, play and engage with others.

Determined that my son would have a good quality of life, I raced against time to learn all I could about this rapidly growing disorder that now affects one out of every 110 children.

Luckily I connected with many wonderful professionals. At a time when all I felt was fear and uncertainty, Geneva Centre for Autism became my refuge, my place of comfort and my source of knowledge. I attended workshops and seminars that equipped me with the information and skills I needed to understand my baby, to help him progress and to progress along with him.

Geneva Centre for Autism's programs and staff have been a godsend to Rory. I can't begin to describe how The Centre embraced and touched our lives. They taught him life skills in a fun environment and allowed his talents to shine through. Today, Rory adores life, talks fluently, and engages with others. He has a great imagination and is more fully connected with his surroundings. He looks forward to going to The Centre, meeting his friends and is excited about going on excursions just like his sister.

Sadly, many families are not as fortunate. Without support, their children with autism will find it hard to make friends, communicate, learn, live independently and find work. But there is hope.

Thanks to a growing number of donors like you, more families will get the services they desperately need at Geneva Centre for Autism. **During this season of giving, please consider making a holiday gift to a child and family with autism.** Help The Centre help them! Please give generously.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!



Sarah Campbell



Sarah

Georgia

Rory

p.s. Your **Gift of Hope**, will provide a child with the specialized services they need to integrate into society. Every dollar donated will make a big difference. www.SupportAutism.net

- ★ **1 in 110 children are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**
- ★ **Autism is more prevalent among boys, 1 in 70 will be diagnosed with an ASD**
- ★ **1 in 10 Canadians are touched by autism in their lifetime**
- ★ **Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in Canada**
- ★ **Over the last ten years, incidences of autism have grown by 600%**
- ★ **More children are diagnosed with autism than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined**
- ★ **Autism has no known cure; it is a lifelong condition**

Give a gift of hope

This holiday season please give a Gift of Hope to a child or youth with autism. Your donation will give children and youth with autism access to services that provide specialized training, allowing them to integrate into society and fulfill their potential.

Every day of their lives, children and youth with autism face unique challenges which affect every aspect of their life. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability. Without specialized social and life skills training, communicating, making friends, building meaningful relationships, participating in school and integrating into society are tremendously challenging. Your holiday gift will ensure that children, youth and adults with autism and their families have access to programs where they will learn the skills that will enable them to become part of their communities and live productive lives.

Your gift will make a difference in the lives of thousands of Toronto area children and youth with autism.

Geneva Centre for Autism

Founded in 1974, Geneva Centre for Autism is a Toronto organization that has become a world-renowned leader of autism programs, services and training. The Centre influences policy, supports research and delivers innovative services that make a marked difference in the lives of children, youth and adults with an ASD and their families.

Annually Geneva Centre for Autism helps over 4,000 Toronto area families access services, training programs, and resources, enabling children, youth and adults with autism to receive the training and skills they need to live productive lives.



More gifts at
www.SupportAutism.net

5 Easy Ways to Give

Art Supplies



\$25

Give a gift of creativity!

Sports Equipment



\$50

Give a gift of play!

Job Training



\$125

Give a gift of independence!

iPad with Autism Apps



\$500

Give a gift of communication!

State of the Art Sensory Equipment



\$1000

Give a calming moment!