

November 21, 2011

Dear Friend,

Working at SouthSTAR Services for more than half my life has given me a chance to see firsthand the joy that the program has brought to more than 2,000 individuals with disabilities. Even when Illinois' ranking for funding to programs for people with disabilities dropped to 46th in the nation, SouthSTAR never stopped providing the support necessary to individuals with disabilities to realize their dreams.

When I reminisce about the good SouthSTAR has done for people with disabilities, a few thoughts come to mind.

- Kevin gushing when talking about his caring boss.
- Andre fearlessly doing a presentation in front of 400 people.
- The pride Larry felt the first night he slept in his own home.
- Melissa becoming a certified quality analyst for the State of Illinois.
- Cindy getting a part in a Hollywood movie.
- The smile Judy had when she independently hung up her own jacket.
- The sense of accomplishment John feels when he matches his activity cards.

These accomplishments did not just happen randomly. They happened because these individuals dared to dream big and staff systematically provided training and support, leading them to achieve their dreams. SouthSTAR has over 130 committed staff providing services to over 500 individuals daily.

With the State of Illinois in a budgetary crisis, SouthSTAR relies now more than ever upon the generous support of donors like you. The state funds 80% of SouthSTAR's services, leaving a budgetary shortfall of 20%. SouthSTAR wants to continue to provide unique and individualized services, but we need your help.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, we were able to help so many peoples' dreams come true. Since there is so much more we would like to do in the upcoming year, we are asking you to consider making a gift of **\$100**. This gift will also help us continue providing high quality services.

Remember how good it felt the moment you finally did something you really wanted to do. By donating to SouthSTAR, you will give that same joyous feeling to many other people.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to SouthSTAR and its programs and services.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Cherny
Director of Development

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