

February 10, 2017

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Over 52 years! That's how long it had been since Bernie Fischer and his sister Paula Kane had seen each other or even known about the other's whereabouts!

Last year, Bernie expressed to Michael Richter, his Direct Support Professional, that he wished to find his sister and have family in his life. They had lost track of each other when Bernie moved many years ago. After searching with no success, a private investigator was hired who specialized in finding family members, and Michael was able to make contact with Bernie's sister Paula, who now lives in Florida.

Paula came to visit Bernie early this month. They were truly joyful to be together again. The bond and love between these siblings is strong. Paula's love, compassion, and understanding is more than anyone could have hoped to find for Bernie. They have plans for Bernie to visit Paula in Florida and will stay in touch through phone and video chat in the meantime.

Dear Coarc Family,

Coarc is a not for profit service agency built over 50 years ago by families of those living with disabilities in order to provide appropriate and effective services to their loved ones. Today we continue to value each family as a critical partner as we continue to provide the best services we can and make them available to as many people as we can.

We need your help to keep us strong for another 50 years.

I've talked to many family members over the course of the last several years who have not had the opportunity to participate in the actual delivery of services. I am writing this letter to personally ask for your help. There are many ways you can be involved. I've listed just a few below:

- 1) **Complete the attached survey and mail it back to us.** This survey will give us valuable information on how better to serve you as well as your family member. It will also allow us to build an accurate data base so that we can ensure information reaches you.
- 2) **Volunteer your time.** We could use your help and your talents whether you have a day, a week, or a few hours a couple times a year. Volunteer hours could greatly enhance our service provision and would make our community and fundraising events even more successful.

- 3) ***Become educated*** about Coarc, our mission, our programs and ***be ambassadors in the community***. For instance, many people in the community still do not realize that we are not a county agency! We are associated with the state association, NYSARC and the national organization, The ARC of the US. With your help, we can increase awareness about who we are and what we do, and most importantly, strengthen the community safety net for our loved ones.
- 4) ***Attend an upcoming community "get acquainted with Coarc" session***. We will be holding them throughout the county at varying times during the day and evenings and weekends so that everyone can have access to this valuable information.
- 5) ***Financial Support of Coarc:***
- Become a member of Coarc. Tax-deductible memberships equate to representation at the state and federal levels. Memberships also help us raise the funds we need to keep our agency operating. Our goal is to have every family become a participating member.
 - Consider planned giving and trusts and what that might mean to help secure the future for your loved one.
 - Make a tax-deductible donation to Coarc.

As a mother of an adult son living with a disability, I know how much responsibility you already feel. I know the feeling of "if I just had an hour to myself!" However, as the President of the Board of Directors of Coarc, I also know how much we need each one of you to keep us going.

Please begin by completing the attached survey and sending it back by March 1, 2017. All respondents will be entered into a raffle to win a gift. If you have questions about Coarc or our 2017 Family Engagement Project, feel free to call me at (518) 392-6426, or email me at dorothyw@coarc.org

Thank you in advance for your help. Together we can remain strong and a vital resource for your family member and mine.

Sincerely,



Dodie Wheeler
President, Coarc Board of Directors

enclosure: survey



Coarc Family Survey

Please return this survey by March 1, 2017 to:

Coarc Family Engagement,
P.O. Box 2, 630 Route 217, Mellenville, NY 12544

You may also complete the survey online at:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07edt0im5riyx60w6r/start>

****All respondents will be entered into a raffle to win a gift****

1) Name: _____

2) Family member(s) receiving Coarc Services: _____

3) How long has your family member received services from Coarc? _____

4) May we have your email address? _____

5) May we have your preferred address and phone number? _____

6) Are you currently a member* of Coarc? Yes ____ No ____

**Membership means that you financially support Coarc, receive regular communications, and are invited to our Annual Membership Meeting in June*

7) Did you know that Coarc is a not for profit organization? Yes ____ No ____

8) Are you willing to volunteer for Coarc? Yes ____ No ____

a. If yes, do have a special interest(s)? _____

9) Are you interested in learning more about Coarc and the services your family member receives?

Yes ____ No ____

We will be holding "get acquainted with Coarc" community meetings soon!

10) Comments or suggestions (feel free to use the back of this page too):

Thank you for taking time to fill out this survey!