

SPECTRUM UPDATES

July-September 2013

The End of the Spectrum: Helping Families Find Solutions to Their Autism Housing Needs.

Dear Friends,

Nothing stays static; this is the nature of life and can offer us solace when things seem overly difficult. I attended the wedding of a board member several weeks ago and had a moment to reflect on how even the most difficult situations can ultimately have happy endings.

Jackie was widowed several years ago and left with two young daughters, one with severe autism. Jackie's testimony to the legislature last year about her daughter Ceci's horrific group home experience was a showstopper and pivotal in getting our bills passed. Ceci has gone from stressed and pulling out all of her hair, to a happy girl at her mother's wedding. Things do turn around.

Wishing everyone a happy fall,

Sheryl Grassie / Executive Director



Congratulations to Jackie and Toby, may your life together be blessed with all the happiness you deserve.



Ceci Trapp, before and after a good placement...

Collaborations/ Support/ Partnerships

If we at spectrum have realized anything this past year it is that we cannot do it alone. We need a wider base of support and we need to join forces with other like minded individuals and organizations. To that end we have hired a grant writer, made possible by a generous donation from the Marie H. Ankeny Family Foundation, are in discussions with Laura Baker Services in Northfield about collaboration on our documentary, and soliciting new board members for the coming year. If you are interested please get in touch.

As a final note I was privileged to be included in a round table discussion at Garrison Keillor's home recently looking at disability issues in Minnesota. Mr. Keillor is interested in devoting time to the needs of this population.

Families are Still Struggling

Life with an autistic child takes a huge toll on family members. More and more I hear stories of the struggles and violence family's face. No placements, hospital stays, fights with social services are all part of life with an autistic child. More and more in the news we are hearing about people reaching the end of their ropes.

<http://www.people.com/people/article/0,,20732309,00.html>

Please log on and check out our updated website. www.endofthespectrum.org



**Thank You to everyone who supports work
with autism in Minnesota!**

