



ENDORSEMENT

June 2, 2005

Ms. Susan Crawford
Rejoicing Spirits Chairperson
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
104 S. Village Avenue
Exton, PA 19341

Dear Susan:

I am excited to write this letter in support of the Rejoicing Spirits Ministry. I had the pleasure of attending and experiencing a service at St. Paul's in May. As you know, we have been in contact on a regular basis regarding Rejoicing Spirits since its inception at St. Paul's. Your groups desire to involve individuals with developmental disabilities in a religious or spiritual way is fantastic and is to be commended.

I attended the May 1, 2005 service of Rejoicing Spirits. The service was organized and sensitive to all of the individuals attending. The number of volunteers available to support everyone was amazing and is a true statement of dedication to the success of the program.

The music was simply joyous. I was impressed that it was not just standard hymns but a celebration with praise music. Your Musical Director was engaging. I thought "projecting" the lyrics on the movie screen was extremely helpful for all of us. Handing out musical instruments to encourage participation was clever and helped all individuals participate with the music.

The minister did a great job of bringing his sermon and message to the proper level for everyone. He utilized concrete examples that, frankly, would benefit those without a disability! I appreciated his enthusiasm and genuine sense of caring.

I believe there is a spiritual part that each of us has that, when nurtured, brings an inner peace and an overall calm that allows us to face day to day and life challenges. I believe the individuals we serve should have the opportunity to express their spirituality and receive all the benefits that come with that expression. It may be as simple as a small daily prayer or as involved as regular worship on the Sabbath. Rejoicing Spirits opens the door for individuals with developmental disabilities to express their spirituality.

I am thrilled to see the Rejoicing Spirits model expanding into other churches in our area. We have already taken advantage of the service offered at Calvary in West Chester.

In my twenty five years of experience in the field of disabilities I have never seen a more involved and dedicated group than yours in trying to bring a spiritual message to those we serve. On behalf of Kelsch Associates, Inc. I want to thank everyone associated with Rejoicing Spirits at St. Paul's for their ongoing efforts in getting "The Word" out to our special population.

Sincerely,
Daryl Andress
Assistant Executive Director
Kelsch Associates, Inc.