

Mr. & Mrs. Don Martin
8103 Brinkworth Lane
Houston, TX 77070

June 18, 2008

Dear Senator Patrick,

I'd like to introduce you to my son, Timothy. He is 25 years old and a graduate of the Life Skills program for the mentally retarded in Cy-Fair ISD. He is an athlete with Special Olympics, a loving, gentle and kind uncle to an assortment of nieces and nephews, and a raconteur of the highest caliber! Thanks to persistent encouragement of an excellent special ed teacher and advocate, Tim was one of the first clients enrolled in a very special day habilitation program in Cypress, Tx, called Reach Unlimited.



Few of the day hab programs in our area offer the level of service provided by Reach—not just academic and life skills, but art and music as well. Instead of losing the skills that he worked so hard to develop during his 20 years in the public school system, Tim now spends his days being challenged (and challenging), loved (and loving). So many of your special needs constituents spend their days in front of the television lost in a very small world. Reach Unlimited, true to its name, opens the door to a world of delightful possibilities.

Reach Unlimited also provides a vocational development program that trains Tim to work in the community and earn a paycheck. Through this program, he also participates in community service projects like Meals on Wheels. More than anything else, Reach Unlimited gives Tim a place to continue to grow and learn and develop and give back to society—opportunities that you and I enjoy for a fraction of the effort!

Several times a month (2nd & 4th Wednesdays), Reach offers a tour of their program and facility, with lunch served by some of the clients. I am personally inviting your and your staff to join me for at least one of these tours in the coming months. I want you to meet my son. When the legislature convenes in January, many bills that directly affect his well-being will cross your desk and I want you to be able to put a face to the issues—and not just Tim's face, but the faces of the 200 plus clients served by this very special place.

I've enclosed the dates for the various Reach Out Tours and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Tim and I would like to know when you will be there so that we can meet you face to face.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Martin

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