



*Supporting People With
Intellectual Disabilities*

December 1, 2018

Dear Friends,

We first met Abby and her parents in the summer of 2006. At 23, she and her mom and dad were interested in exploring the possibility of her living more independently. We discussed a number of residential options with them, but one thing was non-negotiable. Abby had to live close to Wegman's in Hunt Valley where she had recently accepted a job in their café.

Over the next 12 years, Richcroft provided care to Abby in the home she grew up in after her mom passed, in an apartment, and in a home in Lutherville that she shared with two housemates. During this period, her employment with Wegmans continued. She loved her job and made friends easily with her co-workers.

At Abby's annual planning meeting this past June, she declared "I want to move into the Avalon", a recently constructed apartment complex located within the Hunt Valley Towne Centre and within walking distance of Wegmans.

Upon hearing this, our team at Richcroft immediately began the process of working on a plan with Abby and her dad to make the move possible.

Visits to the rental office, developing a budget, and identifying Camelia as the best staff person to support Abby in her new apartment came together quickly. On August 25th, Abby spent her first night in her new apartment and a few days later, she did what most Americans only dream of doing; she walked to work.

Abby brought with her to the Avalon a life that would be described as rich by anyone's standards. Her job at Wegmans keeps her busy on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Tuesday mornings she is busy volunteering as a cashier at the Stella Maris Thrift Store, "Goodbuys", and then spends the afternoon with her Aunt Fay. Thursday is "dad day" when she and her dad get together for breakfast and then spend time doing something they both enjoy. Weekends are spent exercising on one of the many bikes in the Avalon's expansive gym along with Zumba class at the Towson YMCA. On Sunday, she is a regular attendee at the Grace Fellowship Church. She has also started dating her boyfriend, John, who she affectionately refers to as a "very sweet man".

I recently spent a couple of hours at Abby's apartment and had a chance to talk with her, Camelia, and her dad about her journey to the Avalon. She told me that as she watched the construction move along, she dreamed about someday living there. I am proud to say that Richcroft was there for Abby and by listening to her and working cooperatively with others; we made her dream come true.

David D. Coughlin, Executive Director

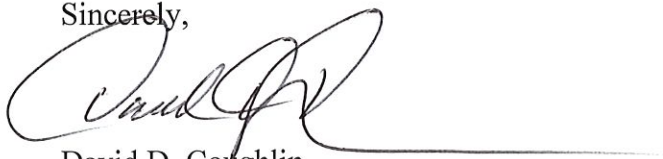
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Richcroft provides support and services to more than 250 people with a variety of disabilities throughout Central Maryland every day. We depend on you and your generosity to help us make this happen. I am asking for your help this holiday season.

If you give \$75 or \$100, you can help provide the necessary maintenance to Abby's apartment. If you can give \$200, \$500, \$1,000 or more, you can pay a utility bill, a car payment, or help us pay the caring staff, like Camelia, that we have here at Richcroft.

Please consider helping us celebrate Abby's success by making your donation by **December 31, 2018**, so we can use it immediately to improve the life of someone in our program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David D. Coughlin", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David D. Coughlin
Executive Director

P.S. I have enclosed a photograph of Abby with her dad and Camelia taken in the living room of her new apartment. Please enjoy!