

Feb 1, 2017

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

I am writing this letter to express support for the Lily Grace Foundation (LGF). As a parent of a child with Autism, I understand all too well how essential LGF's mission is. By providing children and families diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders with education, resources, research, and scholarships for integrative therapies, LGF fills a critical void in the standard model of care for those afflicted by this debilitating condition. I only wish I had known about LGF earlier because it would have made our family's struggles with Autism so much easier.

You see, when my daughter Brecken was first diagnosed with Autism, our hopes and dreams for her future were momentarily shattered. Instead of being comforted by the warm and empathetic embrace of the mainstream medical community, my wife and I were extremely frustrated by the lack of knowledge most medical professionals seemed to have about how to effectively treat Autism and the limited resources initially available to us. Rather than focusing on trying to heal Brecken and restoring her to her pre-regression level of development, physicians and insurance case workers encouraged us to accept the "reality" that there was little we could do for her. At no point did any of these medical professionals discuss a plan to heal my daughter or to set a course for significantly improving her quality of life through direct medical intervention. Therapy and coping mechanisms were all they had to offer and all my insurance company has been willing to cover. In short, we were essentially told to give up on her and accept the fact that our precious little girl would never live a normal life.

I'm glad we didn't listen. I'm glad my wife started doing research and scouring through books, medical journals, and internet support groups to learn more about integrative therapies that could actually help our daughter heal. After a few months of immersing ourselves in new information and talking to the parents of children who have made full or partial recoveries from ASDs, we realized there was much more we could be doing for our daughter than the mainstream medical community had to offer. After an exhaustive search effort, we finally found a medical doctor in California who specializes in ASDs and who came highly recommended from a family friend who vouched for his credibility. From that point on, we took back control. From biomedical intervention to hypobaric oxygen chambers, we were soon on a multi-pronged mission to battle back against Autism.

Just shy of 5 years old at the time of this writing, Brecken still has a long way to go on the road to healing and recovery. However, she has come so far in the last two years since she was diagnosed and there's no doubt in my mind that without organizations like LGF, she would still be trapped in a walking comatose state. Through the same integrative therapies and resources offered by LGF, Brecken has regained some of her speech abilities, remastered the ability to initiate and maintain eye contact, improved her walking ability and motor planning skills, and no longer experiences diarrhea six or seven times a day. As Brecken's Autism doctor so eloquently phrased it, we are actively working toward the ultimate goal of making Brecken "indistinguishable from her peers."

The beauty of LGF's mission is that by educating, equipping, and empowering parents to do more for their ASD children, other families can benefit from having access to the same integrative therapies and treatments we had to go on a nationwide search for. Not everyone can afford to drain their savings accounts and go out of state to find a medical doctor who specializes in Autism. But thanks to organizations like LGF, they don't have to. If organizations like LGF didn't exist, most ASD parents would be lost in the same sea of confusion and uncertainty that once threatened to engulf our family. Instead, the Lily Grace Foundation gives ASD children their best chance of leading a normal life. And that, in my humble opinion, is a cause worth supporting.

Sincerely,



Nicholas J. Downing

303.396.4098 (mobile)

nick.downing@leangovusa.com