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November 07, 2014

Jane & John Smith
100 Main St.
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Dear Jane & John,

As a friend of CATA, you've experienced the joy and revelation that comes from seeing what people with disabilities can do when their creativity is nurtured.

You've watched as CATA artists give voice to the words of Shakespeare, sing musical numbers that shake the rafters of a packed theater, perform comedy that reveals how a sense of humor unites us all, create paintings full of color and expression, and dance in powerful, originally choreographed pieces that show the potential of the moving body.

Your support has made CATA a vibrant, one-of-a-kind arts organization. CATA's founding idea was simple and yet boundless: to honor every human being for their abilities, and to engage our community in the joy of this process. CATA has exuberantly overthrown old notions of disability, creating a mosaic of acceptance, celebration, compassion and creativity—with you as our essential partner.

In this season of giving, I write you to ask for your support once again. **Your contribution today ensures that CATA's dynamic mission continues to thrive—and brings the power of art and creativity to a growing community of artists with disabilities.**

Early this year, I had the tremendous privilege of taking leadership of this vital organization. I am forever grateful to Sandy Newman for her vision in founding CATA and her partnership in this transition, to Dawn Lane for building CATA's exceptional programming, and to CATA's Board of Directors for their support as I've stepped into this new role.

As I've immersed myself in this vibrant work, two things have stood out: the crucial role that the community—all of you—play in supporting and realizing CATA's mission, and the powerful creativity that is fostered every day in CATA's many workshops, where **600 individual artists unlock their potential through the arts.**

—over—

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Community Access to the Arts nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts.

I've spent a great deal of time over the last 10 months visiting these workshops and have been bowled over, again and again. CATA artists exhibit not just joy in their work (and there is a lot of joy!) but tenacity and creativity—a deep engagement that allows for truly personal expression. I wish I could share with you each of the stories brought to life in CATA workshops but here's a sampling:

Teresa, an artist with Down syndrome, discovers a passion for painting and creates beautifully detailed renditions of stories read during an art class.

Michael, an artist who is non-verbal, finds his voice in poetry, writing poems that are published in a CATA anthology.

Tanny, an artist who is blind, becomes an accomplished tap dancer by working closely with a CATA faculty member, whose legs she holds to feel the arch and shape of the foot in motion.

We begin our 22nd year at CATA with gratitude to the community for sustaining this worthwhile work. **Will you continue to help us serve those who gain so much from our programs?** Your generosity supports:

- 1,000 workshops a year in dance, acting, painting, sculpture, juggling, writing, singing, and drumming, serving over 600 CATA artists, led by 20 faculty members;
- In-house programs bringing music and storytelling to 100 nursing home residents;
- An innovative, one-on-one technique giving people with severe physical disabilities the opportunity to paint, using the Artistic Realizations Technologies (A.R.T.) system;
- Partnerships with area schools that bring CATA workshops to young adults with disabilities and help them transition after graduation;
- CATADirect, where CATA artists and local volunteers together create handcrafted goods, generating commissions for the artists and exposure for CATA's work.

These programs rely on donors like you. Because many of the people we serve are low-income, CATA regularly charges artists and settings only 50% or less of the total cost of an arts workshop. Generous donations enable us to continue to offer subsidies and scholarships that bring the arts to all, regardless of financial capacity.

A full 75% of CATA's annual budget comes from gifts, many sent in answer to an appeal just like the one you are holding in your hand right now. Every contribution you make—regardless of the size—directly benefits CATA artists and CATA's mission to redefine disability.

Please give generously. With your support, we will continue to shine a light on the artistry of people with disabilities. Everyone can be a part of art!

With gratitude,



Margaret Keller
Executive Director

P.S. Thank you for sending your contribution today! With your investment in our work, we can grow the next generation of CATA artists.