



May 2009

Dear Friends:

The Batchelor family has called Niagara Falls home for more than 50 years. My husband, Edmund and I were a team that raised four daughters together. We have always enjoyed the extended family we created full of friends, relatives and lots of activities.

Forty-five years ago, when our last child, Elizabeth was born, we began a new adventure as parents of a premature infant with Down Syndrome. Although we were devastated at first, together we ended up creating our own down-to-earth philosophy focused on including Elizabeth in everything the family did, from camping to card-playing, and from Walt Disney World to overnights at sisters Pam and Debbie's slumber parties.

As a family we didn't talk much about Elizabeth's diagnosis at all. ***Partly because there were so few resources available, my husband and I just decided early on simply to do our very best with her.***



Elizabeth and her Dad

At that time in Niagara Falls there were no appropriate school programs for students with disabilities, so Elizabeth was bused to a special school in Buffalo until she was 21. We did some research as she neared graduation and, in 1985, Elizabeth began to attend Opportunities Unlimited's subcontracting program. During the transition everyone in the family shed more than a few tears, but Elizabeth quickly developed a group of friends and enjoys earning a paycheck at the agency. Both Edmund and I became active in agency activities and my husband even served for many years as a board member.

After my husband had his second heart by-pass surgery in 1989, we decided to look into independent living arrangements at Opportunities Unlimited for Elizabeth. As parents, we wanted to do this together. It was the right thing to do and — once again — the transition was actually much harder for us than for Elizabeth!

From the beginning, the whole family knew this was right decision. My daughter Pam said it well: "I think we all knew that staying at home with was not giving Elizabeth what she needed. . . It was time for Elizabeth to move out of the house like all of her sisters. She likes having her own home, like we do."

And fortunately, because Edmund and I had already made this important decision, when he passed away last fall, I did not have to make this decision alone.

Continued. . .



*The Batchelor family –
Elizabeth in front*

Today Elizabeth lives just a short distance from two of her sisters and me in Niagara Falls. She has her own friends and her own life, takes the bus to work and enjoys music, bowling, games and outings with her friends and housemates.

Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara has been a fantastic experience for Elizabeth – and for the rest of the family. We all agree that the atmosphere both at her workplace and in her home is always so happy and welcoming. Like all my children, my oldest daughter Susan is also familiar with the agency. She told me recently: “We are always totally amazed how well run Opportunities is, and how caring everyone is.”



Debbie, Elizabeth, Mary Agnes and Pam at the agency's 2009 Awards Dinner and Gala

Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara has been an important part of our family's life, just as it is for more than 800 other individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. As a long-standing member, I am pleased to share our family's story, and to ask you to join us as 2009 members.

These are such difficult times for organizations like Opportunities Unlimited that depend on state and federal tax dollars. For this reason, please consider joining as a member at the Founder's Circle level with a contribution of \$150 or more. In addition to the benefits listed below, your membership ensures that Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara will continue to grow and strengthen its array of services for people with disabilities. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Sincerely,

Mary A. Batchelor

Mother of (Mary) Elizabeth Batchelor

P.S. A “Ten for One” membership campaign response form and envelope are included for your convenience. I plan on becoming part of the “Ten for One” campaign by asking my children and grandchildren to join as members. I hope you will join me in reaching out to others on behalf of Opportunities Unlimited!

BENEFITS OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

- One complimentary admission per member to Opportunities to Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara's Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on June 30th.
- Those opting to join at the **Opportunity for Choice** level will receive one FREE admission to the second annual Evening of Arts & Entertainment in November, featuring consumer art and talent.
- Subscription to Opportunities and other agency publications.
- Privileges in the annual Board of Directors nomination and election process.
- Membership with NYSARC, Inc., the agency's parent organization, and The Arc, the national organization providing state and national advocacy.
- \$5 coupon good toward a \$25 purchase at the Niagara Floral Center and Greenhouse at Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara (excludes holiday specials).
- Recognition in a printed publication by giving level.
- Complimentary notices for agency activities.



“Ten for One” Membership Campaign 2009 Response Form

“Ten for One” stands for NYSARC’s state-wide goal of recruiting ten members for each of the more than 50,000 individuals served by Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara and its sister agencies. So, after you have completed your own membership using the form

below, consider using the rest of this form to invite a group of others — maybe 1, maybe 5, maybe 10 — to join you as a member this year. Feel free to duplicate this form as necessary!

The 2009 Membership Campaign provides us with a voice in Albany and Washington D.C. The greater the number of members, the greater voice available to influence policymakers! Additionally, each member’s dues makes a positive impact on the vital supports provided locally to individuals and their families. **Please note that all membership levels are for individuals only.**



*The Batchelor family –
Elizabeth in front*

Member #1

- Opportunities for Choice - \$200
- Founders’ Circle - \$150
- Director’s Club - \$100
- President’s Club - \$75
- Friend of the Agency - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Consumer - \$5

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Member #2

- Opportunities for Choice - \$200
- Founders’ Circle - \$150
- Director’s Club - \$100
- President’s Club - \$75
- Friend of the Agency - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Consumer - \$5

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Member #3

- Opportunities for Choice - \$200
- Founders’ Circle - \$150
- Director’s Club - \$100
- President’s Club - \$75
- Friend of the Agency - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Consumer - \$5

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Total Side 1 \$ _____
 + **Total Side 2 \$** _____
 = **\$** _____ (enclosed)

Please make your tax-deductible check or money order payable to
OUN Foundation, Inc.

*Mail this form to: 1555 Factory Outlet Boulevard,
LPO Box 360, Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0360.*

Please check one:

() Check () Money Order

OR

Charge my: () Visa () MasterCard () AMEX

Account #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

() My Company will match my gift

Company: _____

Address: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

THANK YOU!

Questions? (716) 297-6400



www.opportunitiesunlimited.org

Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara
“Ten for One” Membership Campaign 2009 *Continued*

Member #4

- Opportunities for Choice - \$200
- Founders' Circle - \$150
- Director's Club - \$100
- President's Club - \$75
- Friend of the Agency - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Consumer - \$5

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Member #5

- Opportunities for Choice - \$200
- Founders' Circle - \$150
- Director's Club - \$100
- President's Club - \$75
- Friend of the Agency - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Consumer - \$5

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Member #6

- Opportunities for Choice - \$200
- Founders' Circle - \$150
- Director's Club - \$100
- President's Club - \$75
- Friend of the Agency - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Consumer - \$5

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Member #7

- Opportunities for Choice - \$200
- Founders' Circle - \$150
- Director's Club - \$100
- President's Club - \$75
- Friend of the Agency - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Consumer - \$5

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Member #8

- Opportunities for Choice - \$200
- Founders' Circle - \$150
- Director's Club - \$100
- President's Club - \$75
- Friend of the Agency - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Consumer - \$5

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Member #9

- Opportunities for Choice - \$200
- Founders' Circle - \$150
- Director's Club - \$100
- President's Club - \$75
- Friend of the Agency - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Consumer - \$5

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Member #10

- Opportunities for Choice - \$200
- Founders' Circle - \$150
- Director's Club - \$100
- President's Club - \$75
- Friend of the Agency - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$10
- Consumer - \$5

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

From time to time Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara publishes a membership list. Please check here _____ if you wish to have your name excluded.

A copy of the Foundation's most recent annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara Foundation or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

If you do not wish to receive fundraising communications in the future, please contact the Foundation at (716) 297-6400.

THANK YOU!
PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE TO
ENTER PAYMENT INFORMATION.