

December 2007

Dear Friends of MSD,

I am honored to write the annual giving letter for the Maryland School for the Deaf Foundation. As a parent, community member and board member, I have seen firsthand how the funds you donate directly impact diversity and potential in the students at MSD.

The MSD Foundation generates and manages the private resources used to run the Maryland School for the Deaf. While public funding supports the basic educational needs of the students at MSD, it is funding from the Foundation that provides additional enrichment opportunities beyond the scope of day-to-day education.

I fully admit it has been a joy to watch my son and his peers mature at MSD. The same group of boys have played on sports teams since elementary school and continued to play together at MSD through high school. Through supplemental funding from the foundation, the teams at MSD traveled nationally on a yearly basis. These boys not only flourished as athletes, they developed strong, rewarding friendships.

I watched with pride as my son and his friends used their summers to grow as leaders within their environment. Every year specific students are picked to attend Deaf leadership camps in various parts of America. My son and his peers attended those camps. Again, they gained independence and rewarding relationships nationwide.

It was bittersweet to watch my son and his peers graduate last spring from MSD. He and a large percentage of the graduating class moved on to the next level and are attending college. Even after graduation, your contributions help MSD students reach their potential; the foundation offers need- and academic-based scholarships to help supplement the costs of higher education.

Through funding from the foundation, these types of extra curricular and post secondary activities become available to all students that qualify, without discrimination. It is through your contributions that the foundation enriches the opportunities available to the students at MSD and provides experiences not commonplace to the majority of students in public schools. Firsthand, I have seen the impact; my son and his peers have grown as athletes, leaders, scholars and representatives of the Deaf community. Your donation will help us continue to recognize our deserving MSD students. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Sam Fava

Proud Father, and

Vice President, MSD Foundation