



## THE GRODEN CENTER, INC.

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **Letter to the Editor**

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### **Coincidence? Maybe or Maybe Not.**

It starts out with a thought deep in the back of your mind, “Something just doesn’t seem right.” It could be less eye contact, or some kind of repetitive motion. It could be a tantrum that seems excessive, or it could be the times when the child just wants to be alone. You tell yourself a million times, “Maybe I’m just imagining things” or “It’s just a phase that will pass” – but still that trace of doubt lingers in the back of your mind.

Then reality strikes. The child has some developmental disability. The doctors and others call it autism. Suddenly, you are overwhelmed with a multitude of emotions that range from confusion to anger and everything in between. Questions flood your mind: How can I fix this? Is there a cure? How will this autism affect the child’s future? What can I expect as a parent? How will it affect my other children? What do I do next? Where do I get some help? How am I going to deal with this thing called autism?

Then someone, somewhere, tells you about a place on the East Side of Providence, the Groden Center, that works with children and adults that have autism and other disabilities. They tell you that the school’s directors, Drs. June and Gerry Groden, are experts on autism. There are

some innovative programs and procedures that may help both your child and you. You also hear how the staff is wonderful with the clients. You pick up the phone and make the call.

After the phone call is finished, in a very short time, you begin to realize three very important facts. First of all, there are people at the Groden Center that *understand* all your questions, concerns, thoughts and fears. Secondly, *you are not alone* in dealing with autism and the vast amount of issues that are associated with it. There are other parents and children that are struggling through many of the same issues as you. Finally, but certainly most important, you now have something that you may not have had a lot of prior to the call. That something is called *HOPE*.

The Groden Center is located just off *Hope* Street at 86 Mt. *Hope* Avenue. So I ask you again, it is coincidence? Maybe or maybe not. The answer is entirely yours, but as a parent of an autistic child, I have to believe that there is more to it than mere coincidence.

- Richard and Carol Wood

Providence, RI