



The Groden Network
Annual Appeal
610 Manton Avenue
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ANNUAL APPEAL 2007–2008

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Dear Friends of the Groden Network,

Since 1976, the Groden Network has been the leading organization in Rhode Island providing treatment, educational programs, and residential services to thousands of individuals with Autism and related disabilities. Today, these critical services are facing challenges that were unimaginable only a few years ago. While The Groden Network is nationally recognized for its high quality, cost effective, and innovative programs, real threats exist to our ability to continue these services.

The financial crisis facing the state of Rhode Island has become a crisis for The Groden Center and others providing services to the state. This past January, the Governor's budget eliminated funding for services to young adults ages 18–21 with Autism or other related disabilities. As a way for the State to reduce a \$300 million budget deficit, the Administration called for cutting \$17.6 million in services from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). The DCYF cut to the 18–21 year-old program represented an approximately \$2 million cut to The Groden Network operating budget.

Quick response from our families, friends, and staff resulted in convincing the General Assembly that Autism and other developmental disabilities should remain budget priorities. Consequently, the DCYF cuts were reduced by \$10 million to \$7.6 million. These actions still leave us with substantially diminished funding from the state and a forecast of more cuts to come in the next fiscal year.

We stand ready to meet the challenges presented to us by the threat of shrinking state funding. Our plans include the following actions:

- Continuing our intensified education efforts to the Governor's office and our state legislators
- Expanding our alternate sources of funding; corporate and foundation grants, fundraisers, etc.
- Developing new services and programs that are not dependent on state funding.
- Asking our families and friends to help keep our services strong.

We hope that you will join us in our efforts to meet the challenges we are facing. The devotion and consistency of our donors are more important than ever as we strive to maintain the quality of our programs. On behalf of our clients and their families, we thank you for your support.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Rego
Parents and Friends Association
The Groden Network

P.S. – A percentage of any donations made to the Groden Network from now until December 31, 2007, will be matched by The Feinstein Foundation's 2007 \$100,000 Holiday Non-profit Matching Grant Program.