

November 13, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to Christine Shene, whom I have known for over 20 years. I first met Christine when I had her brother, Larry , as a student in my Adapted Physical Education Program at Piedmont Hills High School in the late 80's and early 90's. Christine is one of those one in a million human beings. Her dedication to her brother Larry and my Adapted PE Program, Special Olympics Program, and Alumni Program has been amazing. Christine's incredible passion and love for children and adults with mental and physical challenges is unprecedented. She is one of the strongest advocates for people with disabilities that I have ever met.

I remember Christine introducing herself to me, and telling me that she was available to help out my program in any way that was needed. She started volunteering as a coach on the weekends for Special Olympics. When her brother graduated from high school, Christine and I decided to start an Alumni Special Olympics program for all of our graduates form the East Side Union High School District. Christine eventually took over this program along with her family, and to this day she continues to provide opportunities for challenged populations to compete in organized sports activities.

Christine has a lot of experience working with special populations, and she has taken the time to educate herself to stay on top of the latest research on understanding disabling conditions and how to best work with mentally and physically challenged individuals. It is no surprise to me that she has started up a drop-off center for the developmentally disabled community. Christine's experience, knowledge, creativity, patience, intelligence, and compassion will make this center a success. She will improve the lives of all the clients and the families that she will come in contact with. My life is better because of my involvement with Christine. She is an inspiration to all, and I cannot express in words the number of people she has helped to provide a better quality of life.

Respectfully,

Brian Ward  
Adapted Physical Education Specialist  
East Side Union High School District (408) 347-4746