



# **Advocacy For All™**

**So every child can be their best™**

**Advocacy for All is a new initiative to help families advocate more effectively for their children. All proceeds from the sales of The Special Needs Parent Handbook will help fund this initiative.**

**When parents of children with special needs do not know their rights, the children may become victims of a form of child abuse by the school system. Without having a strong voice to represent them and advocate on their behalf, they will most likely be denied the best possible education and be unable to reach their potential.**

**Think of the parents where English is a second language, the single mom taking care of a child with special needs or families with two working parents who are working so hard to make ends meet that they barely have the time to see their kids. These families are at a tremendous disadvantage because of their lack of knowledge of the law, their inability to communicate, or in the case of the single mom the sheer exhaustion of just trying to keep her head above water and survive each day.**

**Advocacy for All will provide funding to not for profit organizations that offer support and guidance to parents with the goal of offering free advice to all families in need of assistance so that every child can be their best.**

**The Drive for Rebecca, Inc.  
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Tenafly, NJ 07670  
201 567 3699**



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September 24, 2009

GlobalGiving

Letter of Reference for: Jon Singer/Drive for Rebecca, Inc.  
2 Valley Place, PO Box 225, Tenaflly, NJ 07670

To Whom It May Concern:

I was asked to write a letter of support for Jon Singer's, "Advocacy for All" initiative. I am please to do so. In my current position as the executive director of the nonprofit agency, Autism New Jersey, and an active participant in NJ's autism community for many years, I have firsthand knowledge of Jon's many contributions to the autism community.

Jon is a visionary. He identifies needs and creatively and efficiently develops solutions. He expands existing services and creates new services by generating resources and then connecting people to those resources and to each other. The "Advocacy for All" project is his current initiative. I have been fortunate to see the results of dozens of Jon's previous projects-all of which have truly improved the lives of individuals with autism and the families and professionals who support them.

At times, Jon's work has brought much needed services to those who have never been served before. On several occasions he has honored those professionals who work so hard daily to serve the autism community. He has created access for families with members with autism to enjoy community recreational and leisure facilities that other families routinely take for granted. He connects key leaders in the autism community to each other and leadership and development opportunities.

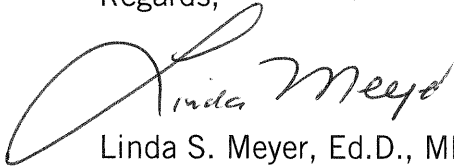
Jon's most recent project focuses on advocacy. His work is especially relevant as it was generated from his challenges and successes in his personal advocacy efforts on behalf of his daughter Rebecca. Typical of Jon's work, the end result

will have far reaching effects. This project will facilitate access for all to services as needed, when needed for the autism community.

Jon's conducts his work in a quiet, yet transparent manner. The results always lead to powerful, positive changes for the autism community.

I am available to provide any additional information to provide clarification of the above mentioned information. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Linda S. Meyer, Ed.D., MPA, BCBA-D, CPT  
Executive Director



## ***State of New Jersey***

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JAMES E. MCGREEVEY  
*Governor*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: April 23, 2004

CONTACT: Micah Rasmussen  
PHONE: 609-777-2600

### **GOVERNOR MCGREEVEY HONORS FAMILY'S EFFORTS TO RAISE MONEY FOR AUTISM AWARENESS**

(TRENTON)-- Governor James E. McGreevey recently met with seven-year-old Rebecca Singer of Tenaflly and her family, to recognize their efforts on behalf of children and adults affected by autism.

"Through the efforts of the Singer family, people living with autism are given a new sense of hope that they will benefit from more research and a greater awareness of autism across the entire nation," McGreevey said.

The Singer family has established the Drive for Rebecca, which is committed to raising money for research, advocacy, and increased education of autism. Rebecca suffers from a rare genetic disorder that causes autistic tendencies. The money they have raised helped to establish REED Academy, a New Jersey based non-profit program committed to providing state of the art, science-based intervention for individuals with autism.

The Governor presented the Singers with a proclamations for their many projects for autism awareness including the "20 Store 24 Hour Tour for Autism" which was held in April. Rebecca and her father visited 20 stores throughout New Jersey and New York in a 24-hour period to raise funds and increase awareness. In 2002, the Singers traveled across the country to seven different cities with the same purpose.

"While medical research to find a cure for autism is vital in the long run, the right educational focus right now can make a world of difference for many children," said Rebecca's father, Jon Singer. "In Rebecca's case, with the help of a program like REED Academy it has given us new found hope for the future."

Of the funds raised through the Drive For Rebecca, more than half of the proceeds help support several New Jersey and New York educational programs and advocacy efforts. The balance of the monies benefit some of the leading organizations dedicated to the quest for breakthroughs in the prevention, treatment and cure of autism.

“New Jersey recognizes the importance of treating autism, and our Administration created a permanent source of funding for research into the causes, diagnosis, prevention, control, and treatment of autism,” the Governor said.

April is Autism Awareness Month, and the Singers have helped to organize the "Opera for Autism" through the generosity of State Repertory Opera of New Jersey. The event, which will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, will help to support the REED Academy, as well as several other organizations committed to helping those with autism.

For more information about the Drive for Rebecca, visit:  
<http://www.DriveForRebecca.org>.

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#### **Governor Honors Family's Efforts to Raise Money for Autism Awareness**

Seven-year-old Rebecca Singer of Tenafly and her family were honored by Governor James E. McGreevey recently for their efforts on behalf of children and adults affected by autism. On hand for the honors were (from left) Dan Mesopotanese, Rebecca's teacher from REED Academy, Rebecca's brother Sam, her mother Michey, Governor McGreevey and Rebecca's father Jon