



January 2007

Happy New Year Debbie and Buz:

As a friend of Natalie Tumlin — we are pleased and proud to share our exciting plans with you for **The Natalie Tumlin Community Participation Fund**.

For six years Georgia Community Support and Solutions (GCSS) proudly provided day program and residential supports that enabled Natalie, along with her friend and roommate Destiny, to live in their own home.

Natalie had an exceptional life — thanks in large part to her family. Beth and Bill and her sisters included her in just about everything they did. If something was happening — Natalie wanted to be part of it.

Boating • Cheerleading • Swimming • Dancing • Graduate

Friend • Bridesmaid • Employee • Community Advocate



Advocates for individuals with disabilities, mother and daughter together — Beth and Natalie — worked tirelessly to ensure individuals with disabilities could participate with *real* education, *real* jobs, *real* homes, *real* friends and to live *real* lives.

Just about everyone in the Atlanta disabilities community knew — or knew of — Natalie. She zipped around in a power wheelchair, and talked with people using her communication device — appropriately called the Liberator.

Natalie was a lifelong advocate for individuals with disabilities. When Natalie passed away in October 2005, in lieu of flowers her parents Beth and Bill asked that donations be made in support of GCSS. The response was heartwarming and a real tribute to Natalie's memory.

GCSS proposed to the Tumlins that these donations be used to create a legacy fund as an ongoing celebration of Natalie's exceptional and spirited life. We all believe that Natalie would love her legacy to be to encourage and enable other adults with developmental disabilities, who have limited financial means, to actively participate in — *and be connected to* — their community...just as Natalie was.

The Natalie Tumlin Community Participation Fund

Through The Natalie Tumlin Community Participation Fund, adults can apply for funding based on guidelines, in order to join and participate in community activities that would otherwise be unavailable to them. Some of these might include — but not be limited to — belonging to a social club; going to summer camp — with a caregiver, if needed; joining the YMCA or an exercise program; going on a special field trip; or activities like weekly bowling or horseback riding.

Life-enriching experiences brought great joy and excitement into Natalie's life. Unfortunately there are many adults with developmental disabilities who don't have family or needed financial support and therefore cannot participate with community activities.

A committee was formed, and the guidelines and application process are being tested and refined. However, to build the financial resources to sustain and grow an ongoing Fund — we need your help.

As we remember Natalie one year later, we ask that you join us by making a special gift in celebration of her legacy to The Natalie Tumlin Community Participation Fund at Georgia Community Support and Solutions.

On behalf of our Fund's recipients, we thank you in advance for considering our special request as part of your year-end giving plans.

This letter carries with it our wishes for a wonderful, happy and healthy New Year,

Heidi Fernandez
Committee Member
*GCSS Parent and Advocate
and the mother of a 13-year-old
son, Andrew, with autism*

Beth Tumlin
Committee Member
and Natalie's Mom

P.S. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress and the grants we're able to make thanks to your generosity.





**To: Heidi Fernandez and Beth Tumlin
The Natalie Tumlin Community Participation Fund
Georgia Community Support & Solutions**

From:

YES!...We want to help enable adults with developmental disabilities with limited financial means participate with community activities that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

Enclosed is our special holiday gift in support of The Natalie Tumlin Community Participation Fund.:

\$25 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$_____

I would prefer to charge my gift to:

Account Number: _____

Visa MasterCard

Exp. Date _____ Signature: _____

AMEX Discover

Daytime Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

...or...if you'd like...you can make your credit card gift online by going to www.gacommunity.org and clicking on Make a Gift

Please make your check payable to Georgia Community Support and Solutions (GCSS), a leading 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and mail to us in the envelope provided.

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