

August 27, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is [REDACTED] and I have lived at The Claremont Rehab and Living Center for two years. A former pre-school teacher, I have suffered from Cerebral Palsy since birth and Multiple Sclerosis for the last 25 years.

A Chicago sports fan, my favorite sport is hockey and team the Chicago Blackhawks. During my stay at The Claremont I have become a good friend of former Blackhawk star Reggie Fleming and his wife Carol. When Rabbi Gordon invited me to participate in the Lifting the Human Spirit by Visiting the Sick (LHSVS) program I readily accepted, because of my love of sports and youth. I have not been let-down - - to say the least.

Many things appeal to me about LHSVS. In addition to the visiting sports figures whose presentations I have always found interesting and inspirational, I especially enjoy visiting with the youth and other volunteers. Having participated in LHSVS since its inception in 2007, I have watched many of the youth volunteers mature and feel more and more comfortable visiting the residents here at The Claremont. Although I try my hardest to attend the main part of the LHSVS program where the celebrity sports figure makes their presentation, there are times, unfortunately, when I am unable to join the rest of the group because of my health challenges. I am grateful to Rabbi Gordon and his LHSVS staff to making sure that on such days the sports figure along with a contingency of youth and other volunteers come to my room and visit with me. Although my spirits are always lifted on "LHSVS Days", I find that my spirits are especially lifted after I am visited in my room by the LHSVS contingency.

I will close this letter by sharing an inspirational personal story. Recently, my photo - in conjunction with my participation in LHSVS - appeared in a local newspaper. A little while after this photo appeared I received "fan mail" from relatives with whom I had lost contact for many years. We spoke on the phone and arranged to meet. I look forward to reuniting with my relatives soon, and I credit the LHSVS program for this reunion.

I look forward to future Lifting the Human Spirit by Visiting the Sick programs at The Claremont, as it truly lives up to its name by always lifting my spirits and the spirits of our other Claremont residents.

Fondly,

[REDACTED]

*I am unable to sign because of my physical impairments.