



**Athelas
Institute, Inc.**



*Providing
Opportunities
for
Achievement
and
Growth*

Administrative Office

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9104 Red Branch Road
Columbia, MD 21045

December 1, 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Once again, the holiday season is upon us and another exciting year is quickly coming to a close. I want to wish you, on behalf of all of us at Athelas, a safe and joyous holiday season.

As we embark on our **Annual Athelas Fundraising and Giving Campaign** we hope to engage our supporters and the broader community to help meet our aggressive goal this year of \$50,000; We also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work our staff has done to help our individuals grow and reflect on the great strides our individuals have made in the areas of:

- Community engagement, integration and participation;
- Getting employment skills training, seeking a wide variety of employment opportunities and getting actual jobs;
- Developing their life skills and learning the responsibilities of independence.

With each passing year we also remind ourselves:

- the people we serve continue to age;
- the diversity of their needs grow and become more complex;
- and how delivering quality services under changing regulation is consistently challenging.

Some of the areas where your generous contributions can help are:

- Funds which can support the continued modification of residential homes to make them wheelchair accessible and safer for our aging population.
- Funds to support renovations and upgrades to our Day Program facilities.
- Funds for Assistive Technology equipment and software for our medical, Day Habilitation and autism programs. These tools enhance our individuals learning capabilities and help to ease the transition into community based settings and employment opportunities.
- Funds to maintain and improve our transportation fleet which provides much needed transportation between residential homes and day programs and to employment sites and community events.
- Funds to develop and implement additional training opportunities for our staff in order to meet increased regulations and to better work with our individuals. Advanced skills training in the areas of mental health, autism, and supported employment programs are all critical to our staff to help them best work with and enhance the lives of our individuals.
- Funds for our benevolent support program benefitting our Athelas staff members and individuals in emergency need.



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We once again look to you in supporting our mission. The **Annual Athelas Fundraising and Giving Campaign** gives you the opportunity to join our outstanding Athelas Institute supporters at special levels of giving:

Platinum	-	\$ 5,000 and up
Gold	-	\$ 1,000 to \$4,999
Silver	-	\$ 500 to \$999
Benefactor	-	\$ 250 to \$499
Century	-	\$ 100 to \$249 (or whatever amount you choose to contribute)

You may also wish to consider a memorial gift or an honor gift for a loved one, or perhaps a gift through wills and bequests.

Please use the enclosed contribution envelope and simply designate your preferred level of giving. Your generous tax-deductible donation will help us meet our goal and continue to deliver quality services.

As always, all of us at Athelas greatly appreciate your generosity and support in making a difference in the lives of the individuals we serve. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Raymond D. Jordan, Jr.
Executive Director

About Us:

Athelas is a non-profit organization founded in 1976 to inspire, empower and enrich the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Athelas has pioneered and continues to develop a variety of specialized programs and services, such as: Community based learning programs, residential services, individual support services, customized/supported employment programs, and specialized day programs for individuals with medical needs, dually diagnosed individuals, and individuals with autism. Athelas serves over 400 individuals. Athelas continues to be a recognized leader in the field due to our creative programs and dedicated staff.

Our Mission:

“Providing opportunities for growth and personal accomplishment to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities complemented by quality services and meaningful community engagement.”