December 2019

Dear Futures Explored Members and Supporters ~

Season’s greetings! On behalf of our leadership team, we wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new decade! During this time of festivities, we invite you to consider Futures Explored in your holiday giving. Your support makes a direct and significant impact in providing meaningful opportunities to over 600 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and your generosity ensures that the needs of those we serve remain at the forefront of our daily activities.

While the recent changes at Futures Explored have affected all of our members, we remain united in our commitment to our mission, to our participants, and to each other. Although this year has been financially difficult, we have identified and implemented concrete steps to reduce costs, increase revenue, and operate more efficiently, while continuing to provide quality services and supports to our participants. Your contribution helps us keep our services intact and robust.

A few highlights from 2019:

- Employment was a big focus in many of our service areas, with an increased number of successful placements in jobs, internships, and film gigs.
- Programs expanded their ability to provide community inclusion to participants who have greater accessibility needs.
- Participants and direct service professionals accessed increased training and development opportunities, advancing their knowledge, abilities, and skills for life and work.

Every donation makes a difference and helps us create and support exciting employment and community opportunities for our participants. Here are a number of ways you can make a positive impact throughout the year:

- Host a Facebook fundraiser on your birthday! This is an easy way to share our mission with your family and friends. Simply click the link two weeks before your special day and chose Futures as your recipient of choice.
- Become a monthly supporter by giving a regular donation each month, or make a one-time donation at http://www.futures-explored.org/our_supporters.html.
- Encourage your family and friends to support Futures Explored.
- Select Futures Explored when you shop on Amazon Smile. Amazon gives us .5% of every sale made through the Amazon Smile link. All you need to do is bookmark https://smile.amazon.com instead of using the standard Amazon. The first time you go to http://smile.amazon.com, choose Futures Explored as your charity (use the search box). That’s it!

Thank you for being an important part of our community and for helping to enrich the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We appreciate your generous support and ongoing kindness, and we look forward to a stable and successful future.

From the Futures Explored Director Team ~

Dienne Kelly, Lindsey Dyba, Heather Hackett, Angélique Goldberg, Hester Wagner, Dina Gibson, Barb Silbergliit

Futures Explored is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.