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August 16, 2006

Germaine Lawrence Inc.
Attn: Dr. David Hirshberg
18 Claremont Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Dr. Hirshberg:

I am writing to you today in order to share my feelings with you of the program at Germaine Lawrence. My daughter Ashley has been a resident at Germaine Lawrence since February of 2005. She was first in the Harriet Tubman dorm and is now a resident at the Hirshberg Treatment Center.

When Ashley first came to Germaine Lawrence, she had already been unsuccessful in several prior programs. She was a scared and emotionally fragile young lady. Germaine Lawrence was still willing to give her a chance.

Her first week was another roller coaster ride sending her again to the hospital. Ashley knew that Germaine Lawrence was not going to give up on her and came back to the program with the determination to make it work for her. She knew she had to do some hard work but that the staff would be there to help her work through the tough times.

For the first time in 4 years, I was able to see her making progress and was extremely proud of the hard work she was doing. I knew she still had many more mountains to climb in her treatment but that the key was to keep looking ahead and working at achieving her next goal.

Ashley will be coming home to live with me on August 24, 2006. I look forward to having her home but I also realize that there will still be struggles. The difference now is that Ashley has worked hard to be where she is today and we are both equipped with tools and resources to make her transition home successful.

I know that Ashley would not be where she is today without the hard work and caring attitude from a very dedicated staff. She has been helped by a number of people at Germaine Lawrence from her therapists to the dorm staff to the teachers and medical professionals.

Ashley is presently volunteering 2 days per week at the Arlington Rest Home thanks to the help from Keely Thompson. She is also working in the school kitchen with Tom (who is someone Ashley really looks up to). She has been involved in guitar lessons, horseback riding lessons and art classes. She is working towards being a very independent young lady, which makes me extremely proud.

I would like you to know that she received excellent therapeutic services from Becky Bernat and Heather Byrns. They both worked very hard at getting Ashley to work on her issues and face the challenges of daily life. It was through this clinical work and in conjunction with the protocols followed by the residence staff headed by Susan Wilder and Jenn Rogers that provided for a successful experience.

