



November 27, 2006

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write in support of the efforts of the Glory Community Project and the efforts of Jim and Sandy Hembd. I have known the Hembds personally and professionally for approximately 15 years, through Jim's DDC/Imagine! Board membership, Sandy's Imagine! Foundation Board membership, and Mike & Mark as consumers of Imagine! services.

Through numerous conversations with Jim and Sandy, I've become familiar with the Glory Community Vision, and believe that such family driven efforts to provide needed residential supports for individuals with developmental disabilities is absolutely necessary in the years ahead.

The need for residential services for people with developmental disabilities is huge and, unfortunately, growing across the country. The population of individuals with disabilities is aging, as are their family caregivers. A crisis is looming in the country, as has been frequently reported not only in professional journals but also in such prestigious news media as the Wall Street Journal. State and Federal Governments have not, and most likely will not be able to fund the need. Interested individuals & families will have to fill the gap. This is particularly true in Colorado where the waiting lists for Comprehensive (residential) services are over 3000 and growing each year due to inadequate funding.

Imagine! is actively working with families and consumers to identify their future needs, and is attempting to educate and support them regarding the personal involvement and planning required. Families will have to be more proactive in the future to ensure adequate and desirable residential supports for their sons and daughters, and not rely as much on government support.

I salute the efforts of Jim and Sandy, and families such as theirs, who are investing the time and effort to ensure successful supports for their children as they become adults. I would hope that you would, as well, support their efforts as they strive to make the Glory Community an important support system in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John M. Taylor, Ph.D.
Executive Director/CEO