

On behalf of Peter Zaino, his family, friends, and community, I would like to thank you for enabling him to demonstrate and exhibit his enormous success on the world's stage.

In August of 2007, Peter took the trip of a lifetime; and he took us along with him in spirit and best wishes. He flew to Shanghai, China as a proud and infamous member of the Special Olympics, Team USA. As a lifelong swimmer, he rose to the pinnacle of his athletic career by bringing home two (2) gold medals for his Country, State, and Community. This feat could not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of so many.

I should also mention that Peter has been a contributing employee of the County of Chesterfield for the past thirteen (13) years; a work history most of us would love to boast about! He lives independently, under the indirect supervision of trained staff and family. They see to it that he has regular medical attention and is compliant in all physician directives. This may sound very normal and routine, but there is much more to it below the surface.

Without a doubt, he is very fortunate and blessed with everything he has in his life. None of this would have ever come to fruition without the assistance of the Medicaid Waiver and the supports Peter receives from the Chesterfield Community Services Board. The truly exceptional part of his life is what he brings to us; his family, friends, and community. Because of the programs you provide we are involved! We have an established sense of giving and feel our lives are enriched because we played a small role in making him, and others like him, better. Your resources breathe life into him and he in turn gives us a purpose other than ourselves. This is truly invaluable.

So we ask you to keep this in mind when deliberating the budget allocations. The Medicaid Waiver and the supports it provides develop a deep sense of unison in our community. We are fortunate to have portrayed it on the world's stage last year in China. To continue to give the same opportunities to others is truly priceless and what this great country is all about. Thank you.