



February 22, 2022

Dear School Administrator,

This letter is in support of a dear friend of Anderson Center for Autism, Abby Edwards. Abby is a Senior at Westhampton Beach High School-part of the East Moriches school district. She is also sister to one of our students at Anderson, Riley. In 2017 Abby approached me with an idea to host a pajama day at East Moriches in an effort to raise money for Anderson Center. As a former teacher, I was struck initially by Abby's interest in becoming involved at such a young age. It is not typical for me as Chief Development Officer to have the pleasure of working with someone in Middle School on fundraising activities. Once I met Abby my surprise shifted to respect and awe, as she spoke about her love and appreciation for her brother and her perseverance in making her idea a reality.

Abby's previous pajama day events have been very successful, growing in revenue every year raising over \$38,000 for Anderson's Foundation since 2017. She has attended several Anderson Family Partners meetings to share her story and be recognized for her efforts. She shared her experiences as Riley's sister, watching him grow at Anderson and participate in opportunities such as Special Olympics as a member of the Anderson Blue Knights, and many other social and academic experiences that he is enjoying because of Anderson's support. She met Anderson's CEO Patrick Paul and had her picture taken with him, which was then shared extensively on Anderson's social media platforms. She received sincere applause and recognition from many Anderson families and employees. Several were brought to tears, inspired by her efforts. We have all been touched by her actions.

This brings us to 2022, and after two years filled with pandemic-related challenges as well as budget cuts to our organization, Abby has once again approached me about continuing pajama day in honor of Riley, and everyone we serve at Anderson Center for Autism. This year, that will occur on April 29, 2022. We would like nothing more than to know that you will be joining Abby and the entire Anderson Center for Autism community on this day with your own pajama day, with any funds raised directed to Anderson Foundation for Autism.

For more information about the important work happening at Anderson, as we optimize the quality of life for people with autism, please visit [AndersonCenterforAutism.org](http://AndersonCenterforAutism.org) or feel free to contact Chrissy Wolcott directly at (845) 889-9201. "The future depends on what you do today." – Mahatma Gandhi

Sincerely,

Eliza Bozenski  
Chief Development Officer