Happy Holidays from Everyone at Hidden Wings:

It has been an awesome year. Thanks to your support, we have grown in size and in enterprise to help all our students on the autistic spectrum find the right job and a good friend. Our commitment to focus on the gifts of autism, not the deficits –is working, and not a moment too soon. The surge of adults with autism has arrived, which we have been preparing for since 2009.

Some of the highlights from 2017 include:

* Hidden Wings enrolled more students than ever – a 59% growth in its student body to 95. We have limited the number of students to this number – stretching to preserve our personalized approach. Still, over 1000 have been served since our inception.
* The number of visitors to Hidden Wings has grown dramatically, as has our invitation to speak at different cities. A recent visit from a family from Beirut and a major talk in Omaha are just two examples of the widespread interest in Hidden Wings.
* Hidden Wings built a 2,000 square-foot community garden, selling 17 herbs to local restaurants, and helping to found one of the area’s first truffle orchards.
* Hidden Wings began to develop a product line based upon these herbs, including soaps, eye pillows, sprays and lotions.
* Hidden Wings continues in its effort to raise the capital to buy a ranch, and serve as a center of the community and innovation.
* We have begun distributing a comprehensive, 100-page blueprint to groups interested in franchising. So far seven locations in California are in preliminary replication review.
* In the end, the only information that really matters is what happens to our students. We have found lasting employment for over 41% of our students (triple the national average). And with work comes friendship. As one mother said “You have given our son a way out of the basement!”

I am writing you during this holiday season to ask for your help to consolidate and build upon this firm foundation. We are especially grateful for your support, since we are funded only by modest tuition and generous donations, accepting no government funding.

Hidden Wings and its student’s thank you for believing in our mission and helping our students to realize their talents, finding the right job and a good friend. May God bless you and care for you and yours during this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Rev. James Billington and Julia Billington,M.D.