



March 1, 2010

Jean Searle, Co-President
Dr. James Conroy, Co-President
Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance
61 Cassatt Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312

Dear Ms. Searle and Dr. Conroy,

We are pleased to endorse the purpose and mission of the Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance to honor, commemorate, remember and interpret the stories of the people with disabilities across the nation who have struggled for freedom and self-determination. It is fitting that these stories be told at Pennhurst, where that struggle found its most important victory. Pennhurst embodies warnings, in bricks and mortar, about our treatment of persons we all too easily in the past have classed as "the other." Equally important, Pennhurst testifies to the true power of the human spirit to endure, to overcome, and to grow.

The Vision – “Never Forget” – Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance (PMPA)

PMPA intends to convene a largely volunteer team of land use, architectural, design, and construction experts to produce a concrete set of concrete, practical options. Currently, the grandest vision is that the Administration Building would become a Museum modeled after the Holocaust Memorial and Museum. Visitors would come in and “be admitted,” receiving an identity card of someone who actually lived there. After the tour, they would find out upon exit whether that person died at Pennhurst, or moved to a new community home, probably operated by an agency much like yours.

PMPA also hopes to preserve some of the other buildings for multiple uses. Some of the ideas have been:

- Archive & Library
- Research Center

- Conference Center
- “Exactly How It Looked” building
- “How It Looked After 20 years abandoned” building
- Headquarter for International Sites of Conscience organization.

If at all possible, PMPA will hire people who once lived at Pennhurst for “real jobs” at this Memorial complex. PMPA would also work to attract any people in the community who have intellectual or developmental disabilities to work for the project.

On behalf of Values into Action, please accept our support.

Sincerely,

Marian Frattarola-Saulino
Executive Director