

March 15, 2009

Mr. Mike Barto, President  
Barto, Hoss & Company, P.C.  
Uptain Building – Suite 100  
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Dear Mike:

Please let me express my sincere appreciation to you and the Board for the Retirement Reception held in my honor at The Mill. I can't begin to tell you how flattered I was to be the recipient of such eloquent accolades and remembrances.

However, it goes without saying that I could not have accomplished a thing at Orange Grove if it were not for the commitment and dedication of the Board of Directors working in conjunction with a skilled and professional clinical staff and executive management. I came to Orange Grove in 1975, because I perceived the presence of a climate which would provide an opportunity to make some monumental advances and changes in the way communities served and supported individuals with intellectual disabilities. I think we have taken advantage of most of those opportunities and after thirty-four years, that climate for advancement is still present at the Center and in our community for those who would take advantage of it.

I was incapable of adequately expressing myself when called upon at the reception at The Mill or at the Center the following day. It was a speech I had rehearsed mentally for months, yet when the time came, I was overwhelmed with the magnitude of the moment in my life and left speechless.

It really comes down to something fairly simple. I have been privileged to spend a career in support of great individuals who ask nothing and appreciate everything in an organization that considers their welfare above all else when making even the slightest decision.

It has been an honor to work with such outstanding leaders as Tom Caldwell, John Germ, Mort Kent, Mike Cook, Rick Rader, and hundreds of others on behalf of the Center. I especially want to thank Susan Gouger Rouse, Kyle Hauth, and Dianne Aytes for their efforts in arranging a superb event on my behalf.

With the most sincere appreciation for the opportunity you have given me, I remain.

Yours truly,

Hal Baker