

**The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Philadelphia Association for Retarded Citizens Dinner, May 12, 1975” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

MR. HOROWITZ AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION,  
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS AWARD. I CAN'T TELL YOU  
HOW VERY MUCH IT MEANS TO ME. BUT YOU ARE THE ONES  
WHO TRULY DESERVE HONOR AND RECOGNITION TONIGHT, FOR  
YOU HAVE HELPED THOUSANDS OF MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN  
IN YOUR CITY AND STATE.

THERE ARE MANY FINE PEOPLE WHO, LIKE YOU, GIVE  
THEIR TIME AND TALENT TO MAKE THIS A BETTER COUNTRY IN  
WHICH TO LIVE. IN ACCEPTING THIS AWARD, I SALUTE ALL  
WHO VOLUNTEER THEIR ENERGY AND IMAGINATION.

== ==

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR ASSOCIATION HAS DONE IN THE PAST 25 YEARS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF RETARDED CITIZENS. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS OF YOUR EFFORT HAS BEEN THE INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS AND TALENTS OF THIS SPECIAL GROUP OF CITIZENS.

YOU HAVE REMINDED US THAT THE MEASURE OF A  
PERSON IS NOT DEFINED BY THEIR I.Q., BUT BY THEIR ABILITY  
TO REACH OUT AND RESPOND TO OTHER HUMAN BEINGS.

YOU HAVE ALSO ENCOURAGED THE RETARDED TO  
CONTRIBUTE AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR OWN WAY. BY DOING SO,  
YOU HAVE NOT ONLY IMPROVED THEIR LIFE, BUT ALSO THE LIFE  
OF YOUR COMMUNITY.

BY EMPHASIZING THEIR TALENTS, AS WELL AS THEIR  
NEEDS, YOU HAVE HELPED MANY ACHIEVE SELF-EXPRESSION AND  
PERSONAL FULFILLMENT.

EARLIER, I WAS GIVEN VARIOUS GIFTS FOR MYSELF AND  
FAMILY -- ALL MADE BY TRAINEES AT THE CENTER. THE GIFTS AND  
THIS AWARD WILL BE REMINDERS TO US OF THIS GREAT OCCASION,  
AND A VERY SPECIAL GROUP OF PEOPLE.

I HOPE THE WHOLE COUNTRY WILL FOLLOW YOUR  
EXAMPLE, FOR WE MUST INSURE THAT THE RIGHTS AND THE  
POTENTIAL OF RETARDED CITIZENS MUST BE RECOGNIZED.

THE WORK OF THE PHILADELPHIA ASSOCIATION FOR  
RETARDED CITIZENS MAKES ME VERY PLEASED TO ACCEPT THIS  
AWARD.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.