
From: Haley, Nikki
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 2:56 PM
To: Priester, Nicole
Subject: Re: Positive SCDSS Story

This is fine

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 18, 2014, at 1:05 PM, "Priester, Nicole" <NicolePriester@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

Governor,

See Doug and Hal's request below. They would like for you to take a photo with Patrick tomorrow before Open Door. Is this ok?

Nicole Priester
Scheduler | Office of Governor Nikki Haley
(803) 734-5151
NicolePriester@gov.sc.gov

From: Peters, Hal
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 11:53 AM
To: Priester, Nicole
Subject: FW: Positive SCDSS Story

I think it's a nice story! Read the article. It'd just be a photo opportunity in her office.
Hal

From: Mayer, Doug
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 11:22 AM
To: Peters, Hal
Subject: FW: Positive SCDSS Story

From: Ronald T. Scott [<mailto:ronaldtscott@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 9:06 PM
To: Mayer, Doug
Cc: Priester, Nicole
Subject: Re: Positive SCDSS Story

Good evening, Doug. I am just following up about a time for Patrick to come in and take a photo with the governor as we discussed. Thanks!

Ron

Sent from my iPad

On May 15, 2014, at 11:45 AM, "Mayer, Doug" <DougMayer@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

Ron,

No problem. Unfortunately the governor's schedule won't allow for her to attend this event tomorrow. That said, we would love to have Patrick come into the office and take a picture with the governor.

Cc'd on this email is our scheduler, Nicole Priester, she will help arrange a time for this to happen.

Thanks.

Doug Mayer

From: Ron Scott [<mailto:ronaldtscott@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 8:50 PM
To: Mayer, Doug
Subject: Re: Positive SCDSS Story

Doug,

Thank you kindly for your reply. We are scheduled to go over to DSS on Friday of this week. The University of South Carolina provides participants in Patrick's program with two very nicely printed certificates of appreciation which they may present to anyone deemed instrumental in their educational development. Patrick and our family have chosen to honor his DSS social worker with one of the certificates and we will also provide lunch for the DSS staff. Patrick plans to wear his cap and gown and formally read the certificate to his social worker on Friday. WIS and a few other news media outlets are scheduled to be there for news coverage. Is there any chance Governor Haley or a representative from her office could be present on Friday? If not, is there any way we could schedule a separate time for Patrick to take a picture with the governor with his certificate from the university? That would mean so much to him.

Thanks!

Ron
803-315-0182

----- Reply message -----

From: "Mayer, Doug" <DougMayer@gov.sc.gov>
To: "Ronald Scott" <ronaldtscott@aol.com>
Subject: Positive SCDSS Story
Date: Wed, May 14, 2014 7:13 PM

Ron,

Sorry I didn't respond earlier. Just wanted to thank you for your efforts and for including me on this email.

If there is ever anything I can do to help you, please let me know. My contact info is below.

Best,

Douglass V. Mayer
Communications Director
Direct: 803-734-3146
Cell: 803-360-3285
dougmayer@gov.sc.gov

From: Ronald Scott [<mailto:ronaldtscott@aol.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2014 10:34 PM
To: JGATSON@wis-tv.com
Cc: dtodd@wistv.com; Mayer, Doug; Pitts, Ted; Koller, Lillian;
Marilyn.Matheus@dss.sc.gov
Subject: Positive SCDSS Story

Judi:

Good evening. I hope you, Dwayne and the boys are doing well. I also wish you a Happy Mother's Day on tomorrow.

In light of so many negative stories about the SC Department of Social Services, I wanted to share with you a story The State will be running tomorrow about Patrick Plunkett, a foster child my mother brought into our family more than 22 years ago. You may remember that I brought Patrick with me to one of our KOBAN Board meetings when you and I served together several years ago. The link to the article is <http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/10/3439638/carolinainlife-graduate-achieves.html?sp=/99/205/&ihp=1>.

Patrick graduated today from the University of South Carolina's Carolina Life Program. My mother took Patrick into our home when he was just six week old and in DSS care. He was born with a learning disability called Fragile X Syndrome, which is very similar to Autism. Through God's grace and the support of our family, Patrick was able to graduate from Irmo High School in spite of his learning disability and enrolled in the Carolina Life Program at the University of South Carolina. The Carolina Life Program is a relatively new program at USC and serves individuals with learning disabilities who likely would not be able to graduate from a traditional degree program. Patrick has received more than \$50,000 in grants and scholarships to participate in the program over the past four years and has become the first child (now young adult) in DSS care to graduate from this program in the State of South Carolina. We are so proud of Patrick for having overcome so many odds to get to this point! Today was also very exciting for Patrick as he had the opportunity to spend some special time after the ceremony with President and Mrs. Pastides and with Maj. General Charles Bolden, a former high school classmate of my mother.

Patrick's social workers at DSS have been a tremendous blessing to our family over the past 22+ years and especially made extra efforts to help Patrick find funding opportunities to attend the Carolina Life Program. When there are so many negative stories in the news about DSS and many negative comments made about the Governor and the State DSS Director, I thought it would be great to share a positive story about a child who has been blessed through the partnership that existed between attentive support of DSS staff and a caring family.

Again, have a Happy Mother's Day, and I hope you and I can catch up sometime soon.

Ron Scott