

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICE PLANNING,
LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE AGENCY

518 James Street, Suite B3
Syracuse, New York 13203 USA
Telephone 315/473-2978; Fax 315/473-2963

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Parrainage Civique
2349 De Rouen Street, 4th floor
Montreal, Quebec H2K 1L8
Canada

Dear Friends of Parrainage Civique,

I am sorry I will not be able to join the occasion in April 2011. Also, ill health limits me to a brief written letter, and that in English.

The *parrainage* may well be *civique*, but it is nonetheless a blessing. To the protégé, it typically brings both social and practical benefits. But to the advocate, it commonly brings even more. How often have we heard advocates say that they received so much more from the relationship than they either expected, or than they gave, how thankful they were for what their protégé gave them, and how thankful they were to the Citizen Advocacy office for having matched them with their protégé.

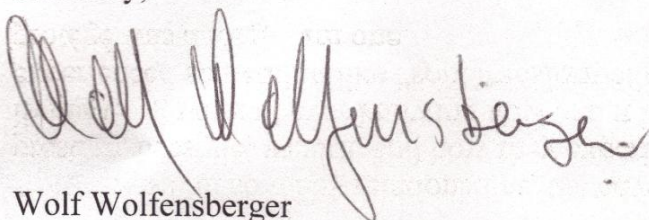
Also, in so many relationships, the advocate was helped to bridge a gap of status, prestige, lifestyle, wealth, and how they experienced life--a gap that other privileged people keep living with, without ever knowing how bad it is for their souls. Some advocates have even experienced something like "soul transformation," especially if their relationship with the protégé was a long-term one.

When Citizen Advocacy was first imagined in the 1960s, we thought mostly in terms of what good it would do to the person who lived with some kind of impairment, and only gave modest thought to the benefits that it might bring to the advocate. Experience has taught us much since then, especially about the good that a Citizen Advocacy relationship could bring about in the advocate.

We certainly do not want to promote Citizen Advocacy primarily because of the potential benefits to the advocates, but we should be more highly conscious of these benefits, and be grateful for them, and especially those that bring the advocate to greater goodness and soul growth.

May your work endure for a very long time, and bring betterment to those whom you have managed to engage on a one-to-one basis with one of the people in society who occupy the lower chairs.

Sincerely,



Wolf Wolfensberger

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