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**TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICE PLANNING,**  
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To Regroupment Quebecois du Parrainage Civique

Greetings from Syracuse, New York, and congratulations on your 30th anniversary.

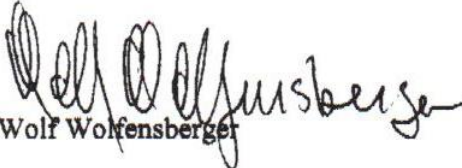
Citizen Advocacy, on which Parrainage Civique is based, is one of the things I developed in my career that is most dear to my heart. In bringing together handicapped and non-handicapped people, it helps to bridge the divide that so often exists between the world of the lowly and the world of the privileged in society. And since it brings together individuals with individuals, it enables real enduring relationships to form. For many handicapped people, these relationships are among the most important ones; in fact, the Citizen Advocacy culture is full of stories where an advocate literally saved the handicapped person from death, and sometimes many times over. At its best, Citizen Advocacy brings goodness into the lives of both the handicapped and non-handicapped persons.

It is heartening to know that for 30 years, people in Parrainage Civique have been working to find protective companions for mentally retarded people, since retarded people very much need both the protection and the companionship.

I am sorry I cannot be present for your celebration. I am especially sorry since, it being held in Montreal, I know there would be good food and fine wine, and beautiful and charming French women.

Keep uppermost in your minds the welfare of the vulnerable handicapped people you serve, and I hope your organization will continue to stand on their side.

My best wishes to you all.

  
Wolf Wolfensberger

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