

Center for 
Disability Services

Where people get better at life

ST. MARGARET'S CENTER

Greetings!

My name is Crystle Fonda and I'm the Recreational Director at St. Margaret's Center in Albany, NY. Part of the Center for Disability Services, we are a pediatric skilled nursing facility for medically fragile children and young adults with developmental disabilities.

I'm writing to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to Richard Martinelli and the GE Elfuns for their continued generosity in donating adaptive toys and equipment to our facility. Words cannot describe the impact these donations have on our residents and staff each day.

Since our residents are all nonverbal and have a limited ability to move to interact with their environments, it is the goal of the Recreation Department to improve quality of life through activities and stimulation. We try our best to provide our residents with the same types of activities any other child would participate in, but it can be quite challenging to adapt activities to meet each residents functioning level. Many of our residents lack the fine motor skills to independently play with different push button toys so their participation in activities and play can be somewhat limited. Occasionally we are able to purchase adaptive toys and equipment from different companies serving the disabled population, however, we have a limited budget and these items can be extremely pricey averaging about \$200 per adaptive toy.

With the donations we receive from the Elfuns of switch activated games and toys, we are able to maximize our residents ability to participate in activities and play independently. These toys that light up and produce sounds bring the biggest and brightest smiles to our residents' faces. It means so much more to them when they are able to simply hit a large push button switch and make the toys work on their own.

We are continually astounded by the Elfuns ability to take the most complex toy and turn it into something our residents are able to benefit from playing with. The amount of time and energy the Elfuns continue to dedicate to provide us with these modified toys is truly inspiring. Our residents' lives are made better because of the Elfuns and we can't begin to thank them enough.



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To enable and empower people, primarily those with disabilities, to lead healthy and enriched lives