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## Appeal Letter

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*Heroes muster their courage to respond when duty calls.  
Sometimes that duty is across an ocean...sometimes it's right here at home.*

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Dear Friend,

Sergeant First Class Timothy Keesecker of the U.S. Army is coming home for Christmas. He's been deployed on a 15-month tour and is anticipating his homecoming with excitement, and some hesitancy...

You see, each time he comes home, he must be gradually reintroduced to the lives of his children. Five-year-old Ian has a development disability and three-year-old Carter has a developmental delay. While deployed, he has used a webcam to help his sons get to know him, but their delays do not always allow them to have a typical father-son relationship. Routine creates a foundation for their days, and with their father away so long on duty, his return can be difficult emotionally, for all of them.

Caring for a loved one with a developmental disability is tiring. But caring for two family members with developmental barriers is often overwhelming. Disabilities such as cerebral palsy, mental retardation, Down syndrome, epilepsy and autism affect an individual's capacity for independent living. Sergeant Keesecker's wife, Kelly, must be responsible for even the smallest activities that most children begin learning early on, such as communicating and taking direction.

My name is David Ervin, Executive Director of The Resource Exchange (TRE). Because people like you care that families like the Keesecker's are faced with such big challenges, we are able to provide critical services that allow Kelly to concentrate on taking care of her children.



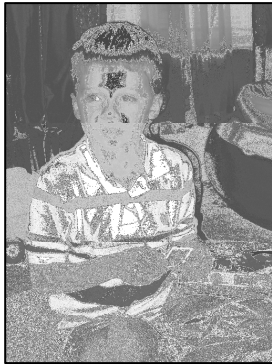
Easing the pressure on struggling families and caretakers is what TRE does best. This includes coordinating doctor appointments, therapy sessions, play-groups and providers, as well as managing the paperwork and payments for Medicaid.

Military and non-military families alike have been turning to TRE for more than 40 years to receive the help they need. A private, non-profit agency established in 1964, TRE is an integral but quiet resource in El Paso, Park and Teller counties. We act as Service Coordinators, or Case Managers, using our expertise to match the needs with the appropriate providers. We also coordinate respite services, along with special training and technology services that make caring for a loved one a little easier.

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Recent changes, however, have introduced new guidelines that hinder our ability to continue providing much-needed services. The changes have made a significant dent in services like Family Support, vitally important assistance families like the Keeseckers depend on. Addressing developmental disabilities early on can result in greater independence and much more normal lives for some children.



Because TRE was able to provide intervention services for the Keeseckers, Ian's behavior has significantly improved. In the past, it was difficult for him to attach to others and to make eye contact. His lack of communication skills led to bouts of intense frustration until Kelly could figure out what he wanted. Today, though he still needs speech, occupational and behavioral therapy, he is reading and doing well in mainstream kindergarten.

Early intervention also helped Carter receive the services needed for his developmental delays. He is no longer in TRE's early intervention program and the school district has qualified him for pre-school. Without these early interventions and service coordination, Ian and Carter may have missed out on getting the services they desperately needed.



Please, will you help us with a gift today of \$Ask1, \$Ask2, or even as much as \$Ask3 to ensure other families in need won't be left to cope alone? Without your help now, it will be impossible to keep up with demand and nearly 1,500 individuals with developmental disabilities will be forced to wait years to receive services. And then, it may simply be too late.

By 2010, our area is expected to house 23,000 troops, including 460 new family members with developmental disabilities needing TRE's services. Without you, we cannot help them.

Heroes respond when duty calls. Today, I am calling on you to be a hero right here on your own home front. Please use the enclosed envelope to give hope to children like Ian and Carter...and their parents, who are heroes in their own right. Every day.

Sincerely,

David Ervin  
Executive Director

P.S. The Resource Exchange is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your contribution today may be tax deductible – always consult your tax advisors. Thank you for your generosity.