

BUTTERFIELD

YOUTH SERVICES

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Dear Friend,

As I sat down to write to you today, I was struck by one simple fact; this would be the last time I will be writing to you at Christmas. This fact may not seem very important but let me explain. I began writing our Christmas letter in 1976, after I had become the Executive Director of BYS. Tom Butterfield was traveling often, developing the idea of the movie that would eventually become "The Children Nobody Wanted". Tom convinced me to assume the responsibility of overseeing daily operations of the agency.

I felt that our Christmas letter should come from my desk and I have continued the tradition ever since. So you see, some of our Family of Friends have received a letter from me each Christmas for over thirty years. I have always considered this letter as an important opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, and to share the appreciation of that with you. As I sat, pen in hand, I realized that this year was different. Frankly, with my retirement coming in only a few months, I just couldn't focus on one year. I kept thinking about the many children we have helped together over the years. Working together, we have given these children a chance...and a choice. That is something most of us take for granted almost every day and something most of the children at BYS often don't even know they have. Many children believe that their lives are preset and they are powerless to change that course. However, together you help us teach these children that there is a better way. By not forgetting the past and the awful things that they have endured, these children learn that they do have a choice. I

think that giving children that choice in their young lives may be the most important thing we do. However it has only been with your help, your donations each month, each year, that has given the children new choices and new hope in their lives. Of course that is the story of Christmas, a time of rebirth and new hope.

I do want you to know that even though I won't be sending you a letter at Christmas next year, I will still be an active part of BYS and hope you will as well. While I will be working to help our new Executive Director to settle in, I will also continue to work with the BYS Board of Directors. Just like you, my wife and I have supported BYS financially over the years and we will continue to do so in the future.

So as I finish this last Christmas letter to you, I wanted you to know how deeply I have appreciated your help through the years. Together we have helped many children by giving them positive choices in their lives and making their future brighter. I hope you will continue to give your personal support to the children at BYS, and I want you to know that you know you make such a positive difference in their lives.



Warmest Holiday Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Carton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Carton