



## Annual Campaign 2019

Dear Friends of Ohio SIBS,

We are proud to announce that we ... Kristin Dailey, Mark Sarna and Matthew Scheidt ... are honorary chairs for the 2019 Ohio SIBS Annual Campaign. We convinced Ohio SIBS that this campaign should acknowledge that the special family bonds and concerns for our family members with intellectual and other developmental disabilities often go beyond brothers and sisters. Ohio SIBS was not only quick to agree but embraced our feelings enthusiastically. By way of introduction, Kristin and Matthew are siblings; Mark and Matthew are cousins.

### **OUR STORY:**

We are part of a very large family. We have 32 first cousins, on just ONE SIDE of the family. We all know, love and see each other as often as possible. We relate to each other much more like siblings than like cousins. Matthew (or, Matt), who is 47 and has Down Syndrome, regularly tells each of his cousins that HE/SHE is his "favorite"!

Growing up, we all lived near one another. The three of us and Matthew's brother, Steve, have been lucky enough to remain in Ohio. That proximity has allowed Mark and Matthew to form a unique bond. Matthew often joins Mark and Steve for sleepovers which provides respite for Matt's parents and reduces the need to use public resources.

Matthew graduated from Solon High School in 1993 and worked in the community for over 20 years. He was always considered "high functioning" and was an avid reader and writer. Matthew and Kristin presented disability awareness programs across the country for over 20 years. As Matthew aged and began to face challenges related to dementia, community employment was no longer an option. All of us have shared in the sensitive decision-making on this journey.

Matthew still lives with his wonderful and amazing parents. Our parents, aunts and uncles have always been huge advocates for Matthew and instilled in us a sense of family and its importance. We grew up, surrounded by many cousins taking care of one another. As our parents age, we often discuss Matthew's future with them and with each other. Because as siblings and cousins we are most likely to have the longest relationships with each other, we have promised our parents that Matthew will always have a strong circle of support.

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## OUR MOTIVATION:

We have connected with other siblings and family members over the years and determined that we are a blessed group of individuals that share unique bonds like no others. The family circle is as large as the number of family members who love each other unconditionally.

We are passionate about assuring the quality of Matthew's life whether we are siblings, cousins, parents, aunts or uncles. We have found the perfect "fit" as active members of Ohio SIBS. Ohio SIBS can be that missing link that family members yearn for. Its mission is consistent with all the beliefs that we share ... that we represent as siblings and advocates.

## OUR COMMITMENT:

Ohio SIBS has just concluded its 18th Annual Conference, "Reaching for New Initiatives". We are delighted that Ohio SIBS decided to launch "Reaching Out", an annual sponsorship campaign, to raise funds to support its ability to continue to be a unified voice and partner for Ohio's adult siblings of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families. Ohio SIBS has been offering advocacy, education, leadership, connection and support since 2001.

**Please help to expand Ohio SIBS' reach by committing a gift toward this campaign. Gifts of any amount are welcomed and appreciated. Suggested giving levels for the "Reaching Out" 2019 campaign include:**

**Platinum: \$750 • Gold: \$500 • Silver: \$250**

Ohio SIBS has only part-time leadership and few administrative resources. Your support is crucial. Ohio SIBS is a self-funded 501(c)3 (charitable) organization, so your support is tax deductible, as allowed by law. We are grateful for all who supported our previous Annual Campaigns and look forward to being able to count more of you as supporters of the 2019 Annual Campaign.

Sincerely,

*Kristin Dailey*  
Kristin Dailey

*Matthew Scheidt*  
Matthew Scheidt

*Mark Sarna*  
Mark Sarna

