

Dear Friends and Family,

Graduation Day! Taylor turned 21 this past summer, marking the official end of school in the special needs world. Graduation is such a hopeful time to celebrate accomplishments and marvel at the possibilities for the future. But the future we had imagined for Taylor was altered dramatically when he was diagnosed with fragile X syndrome 19 years ago, and now struggles with very basic life skills including speech, self-care and safety concerns.



Fragile X syndrome – Fragile X is the most commonly known inherited form of developmental disability and autism. It is caused when a single gene fails to produce one protein necessary for normal brain function. Our despair at Taylor’s diagnosis turned to hope years ago when we discovered FRAXA Research Foundation, the largest private funding source of research worldwide dedicated to finding treatments and ultimately a cure for Fragile X.

FRAXA Research Foundation – Since 1994, FRAXA has funded almost \$30 million in fragile X research in top laboratories around the world and has been instrumental in advancing groundbreaking work. As a result, very exciting new developments are taking place in the field – sophisticated drug analysis is being used to test existing and available drugs, cutting edge technology holds the potential for re-activating the flawed gene, clinical trials for new drugs are underway, and much more. As a single gene disorder, fragile X is an ideal laboratory model for studying the brain, and this work could lead to valuable insight into many other disorders with crossover symptoms such as autism, Alzheimer’s dementia and Parkinson’s, just to name a few.

FRAXA is one of the most effective and efficient charities in the world with management and general expenses less than 4%. The top nonprofit ratings agencies, GuideStar, Charity Navigator and GreatNonprofits, have all given FRAXA the highest marks possible. For more information about FRAXA or to make an [online donation](#) please visit the website at FRAXA.org.

Staying true to the low overhead nature of FRAXA, this annual appeal letter has become our “Big Event” since 2007. So please consider giving generously. Every dollar contributed to FRAXA helps to advance cutting edge brain research that gives families worldwide coping with fragile X hope for a brighter future. With your help, there will be available treatments and eventually a cure for fragile X in Taylor’s lifetime.

Little by little, a little comes a lot. – Tanzanian Proverb

Warmly,

Debbie & Jeffrey Stevenson