



“I  
see the world  
differently.  
You  
would be amazed  
if you had  
my eyes.”

... Calvin Nye, a 17-year-old with autism, 2006

**About the poet ~**

Calvin Nye attends college at Kansas City.  
To view a full version of his poem, *Life of Autism*,  
and one of his paintings visit:  
<http://www.katydidfoundation.org/CalvinNye.html>

**About the illustrator ~**

Anita Perkins, the mother of an adult daughter  
with autism, is the founder of Katydid Foundation Inc.,  
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Newburgport, Miss., serving  
adults with autism and their families.  
[www.katydidfoundation.org](http://www.katydidfoundation.org)

Dear Friends:

The Katydid Foundation, hailed as a model for families with autistic adult children, is launching a two-year fund-raising campaign. Its goal is to raise \$250,000.

The money will be used to help run a home for an autistic woman in Haverhill and provide outreach services for families trying to create an independent life for their disabled loved ones.

Anita L. Perkins, mother of a woman with autism, launched the foundation in 2004 to fill a gap in state services for adults on the autism spectrum – a neurological disorder that affects speech, behavior and development.

Abused in two group homes, Perkins' daughter regressed until she received a unique opportunity: live in her own home with 24-hour care. Today, she enjoys an active lifestyle as a contributing member of the Haverhill community. She earns a regular paycheck delivering newspapers, a job she would be unlikely to have in typical sheltered workshops.

Thankfully, there is a range of programs available today for children on the autism spectrum. However, once they reach 22, services are no longer state-mandated. Services that exist are often earmarked for the general disabled population with little attention to the unique needs of those with autism.

As a result, families often bear the full burden of caring for an adult child with this complex disorder. Most are unable to live, work or give back to society without support.

National studies report there are approximately 600,000 adults with autism in the United States. It can cost up to \$3.2 million to care for a person with autism over a lifetime or \$35 billion per year for all, according to the Harvard School of Public Health.

Statistics from the U.S. Department of Education found that autism is growing at a startling rate of 10 percent to 17 percent per year. At this rate, the Autism Society of America estimates there could be 4 million people in the United States in the next decade. Unlike chronic diseases like diabetes, autism is not covered by insurance.

The Katydid Foundation, which opened a home in Haverhill in 2004, operates at less cost than more traditional homes run by large corporations with layers of administration. The grassroots organization is run by the resident's family and board members.

Many families have this dream. But a limited pool of public money means families must pay for all startup costs including the purchase of a house, furnishings, repairs and a vehicle.

The foundation is now helping other families find their way through the complex network of bureaucracy and overlapping regulations by providing individual counseling, workshops, support groups and a helpful Web site. Future plans include securing housing grants and setting up trusts to lessen the burden on aging parents and siblings.

Please help us maintain this worthwhile program and assist others in their often lonely journey. Any amount – a one-time donation or monthly pledge – would be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

In gratitude for your time and consideration,

M. Brenda Smith, treasurer/director  
Katydid Foundation Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation  
[www.katydidfoundation.org](http://www.katydidfoundation.org)  
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