Elizabeth Sellwood
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May 24, 1999

Dr. Michael Irving
The Child Abuse Survivor
Monument Project
274 Rhodes Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Dr. Irving,

In recent weeks, you attended Downtown Alternative School to discuss your Child Abuse Survivor Monument Project with the students. My child was one of those students and the effect your project had on her has prompted me to write you and express my thanks.

The children made paper hands to put inside the monument with comments expressing their thoughts and feelings on the issue of child abuse.

Late that evening, when my child was in bed, she turned to me and asked if I knew about child abuse. She then told me about the project. The events of the day had a strong impact on her. She could not understand how people could be cruel to children. The idea filled her with sadness and concern for the victims. We talked at length.

My daughter would like to see the monument stand for a thousand years to let future generations know that "the people of our time had a caring side, that we were aware of the suffering and tried to do something about it".

Something as simple as the making of a paper hand opened up a door to awareness for my eleven-year-old child. For this gift, I thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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Elizabeth Sellwood
Mother