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Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

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Julia Hanschell, Administrative Director
LEARNING SOLUTIONS
Lockerbie House
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St. Michael BB14002
Barbados

Dear Julia,

We are writing to express our profound appreciation for the work you and your teachers did with our children this year at Learning for Life (**now Lockerbie College**). We had a magnificent year here in Barbados. The most critical component to the success of our year abroad was your school. There is so much that a parent needs to think about when relocating a family for a year to another country; the school situation for one's children is among the highest priorities. Without that piece of the puzzle in place, little else matters.

At Learning for Life (**now Lockerbie College**) we found that although you teach the Barbados National Curriculum, you were flexible and offered a differentiated education. This enabled our children to keep up with the U.S. curriculum. We feel that our children are not only up to date in what they have learned but are even a bit ahead of their U.S. grade level. Another aspect of your school we appreciate tremendously is the strong remedial team who knew, clearly, what they were doing, were able to analyze the issues, address them and help our children as students. As a result, our children's reading and writing skills improved by leaps and bounds. You truly provided a unique learning environment that included great resources, technologically-rich opportunities, excellent teachers, relevant support classes, and enriching field trips. This allowed our children to develop a sense of themselves as competent learners—something we know to be critical to academic success.

As academics ourselves, we value that kind of success. But we also place a premium on ethical behavior and cultivation of responsibility. We loved that you held the students to appropriate social behavior, that the way they dressed to go to school mattered, that the way they spoke to their teachers counted—and that all of this was discussed openly with students and parents at your school.

Our happy family is a bit different from other happy families in its construction. This is no problem for us in the U.S. We feel that there are all kinds of difference in the world and that such diversity makes life rich. We did not know what to expect in Barbados as far as tolerance of difference. We feel so fortunate and are grateful for the openness and respect with which you and your teachers and staff treated our family. It is clear to us that we and our children were treated with integrity and fairness; that we and our children were accepted for who we are; and, that you and the school do not tolerate discrimination. Our experience at Learning for Life (**now Lockerbie College**) affirms our belief that goodness is a predominant virtue in this world.

There is no doubt, of course, that Learning for Life (**now Lockerbie College**) is an expensive proposition. We explored various educational options in Barbados for our children before we opted to come here. It was clear to us from the get-go that even the high-end bigger private schools wouldn't have been able to give our children what they needed educationally. Our children have learning differences that are not extreme; they could have gone to some of these

other schools. But in our opinion, the classes were too big and we also got the sense that there was a teaching to the norm that might not have been so satisfying to our children. We think that the cost of sending our children to Learning for Life (**now Lockerbie College**) was reasonable. It was a gift we gave to them and it made us all very happy. All that you promised us Julia, you delivered.

As we embark on our return home to our regular lives in the U.S. public school system, we know that the whole family will miss the academic setting and rigors at Learning for Life (**now Lockerbie College**). We are fortunate to have sabbaticals every few years. Because of the experience at Learning for Life (**now Lockerbie College**), we would come back to Barbados in a flash the next time around. We would be happy to speak with any prospective parents about Learning for Life (**now Lockerbie College**). Feel free to provide them with our email address and phone number.

With profound gratitude,

Jill S. Stewart Schneiderman, PhD
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