

Martin S. Lampner Technology & Innovation Fund

Technology & Innovation

Innovation is, and has always been a defining characteristic of Chimes. Frances Bacon, our founder was an innovator. When Ms. Bacon's son, Hilary, was born with a developmental disability the prognosis was grim. Prevailing wisdom held that children like Hilary needed to be institutionalized, but Ms. Bacon had other ideas. She envisioned a different kind of school for children with developmental disabilities which nurtured them and helped them grow into happy, productive, independent adults. Ms. Bacon secured space in a local church, and with five students and an abundance of courage and determination Chimes was born.

Innovation continued to characterize Chimes' growth through the years. When Congress passed the Community Mental Health Act in 1963, which eventually led to the passage of Medicaid and deinstitutionalization of what had become a frighteningly medieval state "training school" system, it was Chimes' bold vision that resulted in the construction of Curtis Hall, Maryland's first community based residential facility for persons with developmental disabilities. More recently, Chimes has responded to the growing consensus that center-based employment for people with disabilities will be legislated out of existence. Though many of the individuals served by Chimes will find success in an integrated work setting in the community, a meaningful percentage are challenged with medical and/or behavioral complexities which make a placement in the community impractical. Chimes innovation was to flip this paradigm and bring the commercial employers and their workforce into our centers where the individuals Chimes serves can be properly supported. Chimes Business Incubator currently has two commercial businesses operating out of our center, providing employment opportunities in an integrated setting.

In the 21st Century, innovation increasingly takes the form of new technology. Examples include: software to help the individuals we serve better communicate; virtual reality simulations to help the individuals we serve train for employment opportunities; assistive technology designed to help children learn to ambulate, or aid our direct service professionals with our clients' transportation. As the price of technology declines and the time required to progress from innovative idea to functional prototype shortens, technological solutions are poised to play an increasing role in the way Chimes responds to the needs of the individuals we serve.

Chimes is committed to remaining in the vanguard of its industry by providing the most innovative programs, armed with the newest and best tools. Imagination and determination have never been limiting factors, but regrettably, finances are. State and Federal funding, while never robust, continues to pose challenges to providers like Chimes, and increasingly we must look to private philanthropy to support our mission. Accordingly, Chimes is launching an innovation and technology fund so that we can continue to create new opportunities and employ new technical processes to enhance and support the lives of the individuals we serve.

Martin "Marty" S. Lampner

Marty joined Chimes in 1989 as our Chief Financial Officer. In the 28 years since his hire, Marty has also served as Chimes Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, and

for the last six years, as our President and Chief Executive Officer. When Marty retires in January, 2017 he will leave behind a cherished legacy. Of the many programs, processes and cultural totems that will bear his imprint, one that is particularly vivid is Marty's early embrace of technology. Marty was Chimes first Chief Information Officer before the job and its responsibilities were fully defined. He pushed Chimes to adopt new technology—he purchased some of Chimes first computers—because he correctly foresaw its utility as a tool to help manage the business of Chimes, as well as its utility as a tool to help support the individuals we serve. Marty also spearheaded Chimes quest to become eco-friendly and energy independent. Chimes International draws nearly all of its electricity from solar panels via a 669kw, 3,000 panel installation that was placed in 2011. Marty also championed the use of eco-friendly cleaning products throughout the organization. Because of Marty's track record as an innovator and technology champion, christening Chimes newly launched Technology and Innovation Fund the Martin S. Lampner Technology and Innovation Fund is a perfect way to pay homage to Marty's nearly 30 years of selfless commitment to Chimes and the individuals we serve.

Fund Purpose

The Martin S. Lampner Technology & Innovation Fund will be restricted to support of Chimes operating agencies in their pursuit of unfunded, innovative ideas and programs, or to commission the development and/or purchase of new technology or adaptive equipment which serves the needs of the individuals Chimes supports.