



**FROM THE DESK OF  
Harlan Temple**

Dear Friend,

I was born with a love for farming. I was also born with cerebral palsy.

Agriculture got in my blood when Dad, a farmer, took me to ride along with him on the tractor. The neighbors thought that he was crazy the day he let me drive the tractor by myself! Thankfully my parents allowed me to reach out and expand my horizons.

Like Dad and Mom, throughout the years, my occupational therapists have also given me the opportunity to make the most out of life. For example, they've made hand and wrist splints for me so that I can use my hands as much as possible. They also went out of their way to help me find and settle into my current wheelchair. After trying out several types, they finally found one that was perfect for me, a deluxe model with the power and speed they knew I wanted and needed out on the farm and for hunting and fishing. All along the way, my OTs have been considerate, patient, and caring. They've always taken the time to make sure everything's just right for me, instead of just saying, "Okay, we're done."

I have been a farmer for over 50 years now. Today, my wife, Rita, and I continue to operate a 240-acre farm in South Dakota. I still drive the tractor to prepare my fields for spring planting and to do the tillage in the fall after harvest. We host classes of occupational therapy students out at our farm each year so that they can learn from the different adaptations which allow me to operate my equipment. I also have owned and operated an insurance agency for over 47 years. I would not be able to continue to be this active and enjoy life so much without the assistance of the occupational therapy services that I have received over the course of my life.

Rita and I are not wealthy by any means, but we are so appreciative of the work you and other OTs do that we've endowed a scholarship for OT students here in South Dakota. Over the years they have come to have a special place in our hearts and with an education, these students can help fulfill the dreams of somebody else like me.

I can't imagine where I'd be today if not for the OTs who have given me so much help and encouragement. I hope you'll join me and [support AOTF](#), a wonderful organization that serves to support participation in everyday life.

Sincerely,

Harlan K. Temple