

October 16, 2019

Dear Governor Wolf,

I first met Maceo, a.k.a. Butchie, when he was in Pennhurst State Hospital. I met him when he came to Eagle Springs Camp from Pennhurst for a week in 1980 and a few subsequent years. Although I only spent time with him for a week at a time over a couple years, we clicked and our friendly relationship began. Butchie was very friendly, but was also very rigid in routines and often showed signs of anger with aggression.

Our relationship rekindled again in 1987 when Butch attended a social group I facilitated at SPIN in Philadelphia. Butchie was still friendly and funny, but there was a difference in his demeanor. He was much more relaxed and happier overall, smiling much more than I remembered from his days at Pennhurst.

In 1992, Maceo and I took a shot at Lifesharing. It was difficult at first to adjust to living with each other, but within a very short period of time, we both adjusted well and life as it should be continued. Maceo has been living as a family member with me (and my two sons) for 27 years! He is a very different person from the man I first met in 1980 (while in Pennhurst). Although he still has his same friendly soul, he is so much more relaxed, happy, fun and most importantly no more anger and aggression!

Butchie truly lives an Everyday Life filled with love and possibilities..... far, far away from a life in an institution.

Sincerely,

Mary Jacobs

