



February 4, 2020

734 936-8178

734 615-1770 fax

<http://pmr.med.umich.edu>

Mr. Keith Famie
Visionalist Entertainment Productions
28345 Beck Road, Suite 404
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mr. Famie:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your upcoming project, Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower?, a documentary on life with Down Syndrome. I have been involved with the rehabilitation care of children and adults with Down Syndrome for over 20 years, as well as research to try to help improve their quality of life. I think this is a much needed film, to help educate the world about this population.

Beyond my work, this project is important to me personally. My oldest son, Joey, now 26, has Down Syndrome. I've seen how well he has done, how wonderfully some people treat him, and others, not so well. Educating our society can improve his life, and the lives of so many others, with or without intellectual disabilities.

Though care and services have dramatically improved over the last few decades, the general public still has limited insight into the lives of people with Down Syndrome, and the effects on their family and community. Discrimination and prejudice are often the result of ignorance, and providing knowledge can help improve acceptance. Due to the nature of their disability, self-advocacy is difficult, and others need to help with this advocacy. This is an excellent opportunity to educate.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Hornyak, MD, PhD

Professor

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Lead, Pediatric Rehabilitation