From: Your organization (or representative) email address

Subject Line: STUDY OPPORTUNITY: Strengths and Social Connections of Siblings With and Without Disabilities

Dear Parents and Siblings,

We are writing to share with you an announcement about an important new research project focusing on the strengths and social connections of siblings with and without disabilities in Tennessee. Siblings (ages 18-30) of individuals with intellectual disability or autism can participate. A description of the survey is below.

If you are a sibling of a brother or sister with disabilities, the brief survey can be completed online by clicking this link: https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=JUmLYZm5Y9

If you are a parent, share this announcement with your adult children who have a brother or sister with a disability.

Twenty siblings will be randomly picked to receive a $25 gift card from among all completed surveys.

We are sending out this announcement on behalf of the project team. Any questions about the project should be directed to Mary Beth Carlton at mary.e.carlton@vanderbilt.edu or (615) 343-1438.

Regards,

[Your (or group representative) Signature]

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Dear Siblings of Individuals with Disabilities,

We invite you to take part in a research study focusing on the relationships and views of siblings of individuals with intellectual disability or autism. Our goal is to learn more about these special sibling relationships and expand what we know about the strengths of young people with developmental disabilities.

*You can participate if you are the sibling of an individual with intellectual disability or autism and you are 18-30 years old.

If you choose to participate, you can complete an online survey at a time and location most convenient to you. It should take you less than 20 minutes to complete. The survey asks about:
You can change your mind about participating after reading the survey, or at any point during the survey.

As a sibling of a younger brother with a severe disability, I (Mary Beth) understand that these sibling relationships can be complex. We strongly encourage your participating in this survey whatever your views are. The findings from this project will be shared back with you and others who support people with disabilities and their families.

Your participation is completely voluntary. To minimize any risk that the personal information you share could be linked back to you or your sibling, we will take immediate steps to protect the confidentiality of your responses. Your survey will be linked only to a unique number and any identifiable information you include will be removed. As we will not use names, it will be impossible to identify you or your sibling when we write or talk about this study. All data will be stored on password-protected computers at Vanderbilt.

As with all surveys, a high participation rate helps ensure our findings and recommendations really do reflect the views of all siblings of individuals with disabilities.

If you have any questions about this project or you would like to request a written survey, contact Mary Beth Carlton at mary.e.carlton@vanderbilt.edu. For additional information about giving consent or your rights in this study, please feel free to contact the Vanderbilt University Institutional Review Board Office at (615) 322-2918 or toll free at (866) 224-8273.

If you would like to take this survey, please click the following link: https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=JUmLYZm5Y9

Thank you for considering this invitation!

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Carlton
Graduate Student, Special Education Department
Mary.e.carlton@vanderbilt.edu or (615) 343-1438

Erik Carter
Associate Professor, Special Education Department
Erik.carter@vanderbilt.edu or (615) 875-2298