

—TRIBUTES TO DR. RIMLAND—

Dr. Rimland touched lives around the world, and ARI's office is overflowing with tributes from parents and professionals. Below is a small sampling of the messages we've received. To read more tributes, or create one of your own, visit www.AutismResearchInstitute.com.

I found ARI in our deepest, darkest moment in autism... suffering a broken nose inflicted by my flailing autistic son, expelled from every "mommy and me" class, no normal moments left in our lives, and home-bound without daring the experience of public scrutiny. The day I found the DAN! Convention was the day the light returned into our lives.

Without Dr. Bernard Rimland in the world I would never have been able to proudly present Luukas as one of the first recovered autistic children. I am so glad he was able to witness the recovery... the grand prize for all his efforts.

A truly great man has left our world but he will live on in spirit because there are so many recoveries now—children on football teams, attending normal classes, having friendships who had no hope of ever having these experiences. My son may NOT have to be in an assisted living center as an adult, he may hold a job, and get married—things that were unimaginable just a few years ago...

I will always cherish the information Dr. Rimland placed in my hands and that I ran with. He truly is an inspiration for everyone. We will march on and he will watch from the heavens as we collectively try to carry his torch.

Tiffany Bowne and Luukas Harlin
New York, NY

Dr. Rimland,

I will be truly indebted to you for the rest of my life. Because of you and DAN!, I am doing the most rewarding work of my life and have been able to recover many children. I know that God has made the most special place for you in the abode of heaven. I can only wish that one day, when it is my turn to leave this earth, I will have earned a spot next to you.

Karima Hirani M.D., MPH
Los Angeles, CA

While reading the foreword to a book on autism seventeen years ago, I came upon Dr. Bernard Rimland's name and immediately memorized it—knowing in the deepest reaches of my heart that it was important. Our then 2-year-old daughter had been diagnosed with autism and we were just beginning a journey that would have had an entirely different ending if it were not for our beloved Bernie. Because of his vision and dedication, the same psychologist who had initially diagnosed our child in 1989 had the joyful experience of un-diagnosing her eight years later. We will never forget what you have given us, Bernie, and will hold you and the ARI closely in our hearts forever. Our deepest condolences to your loving family.

Cherri Saltzman
Chanhassen, MN

It is sad to hear the news. Sometimes you wish people like him could live forever, and in a way he will because his efforts and struggles to help all of us in the autism community all over

the world will keep him in our hearts for good. Our center was named after him in 2002 and we are grateful for his help to our Director, Dra Lilia Negron, which made us improve the health and ever recover some of our kids down here in this small place of the planet. He was our beacon! With tears in our eyes—

Dr. Lilia Negron
Maria Russo de Lahoud
Dr. Andres Marcano
Dr. Petra Aponte

The staff of the Venezuelan Society for
Autistic Children and Adults
And all of our children
SOVENIA, Venezuela

As a giant in the autism world, it is impossible to overstate Dr. Bernard Rimland's contribution to the autism community. From the lifting of misattributed guilt pointing the cause of autism to poor mothering to the shining light of research on biomedical causes and interventions for people with autism, Bernard is the true "grandfather" of the autism community. Let us celebrate the life and contributions of Dr. Rimland by redoubling our efforts to empower those with autism to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

Stephen M. Shore
Brookline, MA

Dear Dr. Rimland,

I see my own days where I cried and waited and witnessed the horrors of people telling me there was no hope for my son, there was no happy life waiting for us as we once dreamed. I walked through the fog until I found someone who believed in you. A group of parents that wouldn't take no as an answer and were spreading around the knowledge and importance of your work.

Then I became the one who believed there was a way. I became the one who could see.

And now it seems to me I could never thank you enough and I wish I could translate my feelings into words to express what you mean to me. You left us with so much, you gave us back the hope of a better life for our kids, you will always be around us and to you we will dedicate every successful step in the way of recovery.

Laura Mannucci
Riva del Garda, Italy

On Monday the 20th, November 2006, I read with shock about the death of Dr. Rimland. A mail had been sent to me by ASA, announcing the death of a great man who has given many families of autistic children hope. For us in Africa his work has helped us tremendously, as the awareness of autism is still very low. It has helped my husband and me understand how to cope with our 4-year-old autistic daughter, Andrea. Ever since Andrea was diagnosed with baseline autism our lives have changed. But the work of Dr Rimland has helped us in dealing with a

situation which is thrice as difficult in Nigeria where there is no assistance and knowledge from both the medical practitioners and country as a whole. Dr Rimland's work has given us hope and helped to jump-start the care Andrea needed in fighting the battle against autism. All the knowledge we have today of autism is mainly as a result of Dr. Rimland's efforts which have been embraced by the medical practitioners in the United States and other developed countries

I want to say thank you to Dr Rimland whom I was hoping to meet someday. May his good soul rest in peace.

Uzo Onwuka,
Lagos Nigeria

He once made the observation that all parents of autistic children are in reality more of a "family" than their biological families. And, he was right. Parents who do not have an autistic child can never understand what "our family" has to endure on a daily basis and our many concerns about the future of our affected children. Because of his tireless efforts, many autistic people have been helped. Under his leadership, a large coalition of parents and professionals continued and will continue the work he started. Of this great man, it can truly be said that he left the world a better place. He will be fondly remembered in the hearts of all who knew him, and the work he began years ago will continue to positively impact the lives of countless others. Surely there is a very special place in heaven for this extraordinary man.

Amy S. Holmes, M.D.
Baton Rouge, LA

Someday we will tell our recovered son about this amazing, gentle man who helped rescue him. I don't know how I'll be able to convey to Grant what a miracle it is that a handful of strangers he's never met, facing tremendous odds, bound together to protect him, led by Dr. Rimland. I doubt I'll have the words to explain how remarkable it is that a single man armed only with his intellect and love for his wife and children changed the way the world thought about autism not once, but twice.

Our son should not be talking. Our son should not be jumping. Our son shouldn't have a crush on the little girl who sits next to him at circle time at his regular preschool. Our son shouldn't be able to set up a race track by himself, get dressed on his own, or sing Jingle Bells. He turns four in two days, and he does all those things, and many, many more.

Dr. Rimland, thank you for believing that autism is treatable and for more importantly making it okay for parents to fight to try and get our kids out of this relentless pain.

What humbly good work. What kindness. Blessings to the Rimlands, and eternal gratitude.

Denise Fulton
Olympia, WA