

Dear Candee, Katie, and the Basford Family

So here it finally is. It is hard for me to believe, but you are holding in your hands The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal. It seems like yesterday that I drove over that old bridge and was greeted by a pack of stray dogs and a wonderful lunch of previous Basford farm residents! I had no idea how much that day would change me!

This book is my gift to you—but a gift that could never repay the debt that I owe to you. I really see you as role models for me. One of deepest scars for me from my experience in special education was the feeling that I had to be something other than what I was—that I had to be exceptional to be valued at all. I learned from my day with you how wrong that was—how our lives are intrinsically linked. You gave me the gift of seeing how when we are together, we are so much more than when we are alone. To quote Candee you helped me see what a tragedy it is that we believe we are really individuals in this world. Spending the day with you really changed me. Thank you. You are both role model for me in my new role as a father.

Your chapter is Chapter 12: “Katie’s book of life.” This chapter is a celebration of your life. I can tell you that so far the individuals who have read this book have been deeply affected by your story. Everyone at the publishing house has said to me that your chapter is one of the strongest in the book. Katie’s sense of humor and resiliency was actually mentioned in one of the first reviews. We have pitched both of you as guests to many national media outlets including *The Today Show*.

Lastly I want to reiterate an offer that I’ve made before. I want to use the publication of The Short Bus to support you and your work in any way that I can. I would love to have copies of Candee’s book available at all my book signings and presentations. If I can be of any help with Katie’s book please let me know. I think you both are extremely talented important human beings. Thank you for letting me into your life!

This journey has changed my life. You were both an essential part of this. I will forever consider you friends, family members and mentors. Thank you for an amazing ride on the short bus.

Best wishes always,



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