

Operation Life Inc.

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RUBY DUNCAN
Chairwoman

April 18, 1977

Dear Maya,

I know that Ruby has thanked you for your most generous contribution recently, but I would like to make sure that you know just how much your surprise meant to her and the organization.

Ruby was getting frantic and frustrated about the probability of closing down in May. She was under so much pressure to cut back even further on expenses and to find new sources of money -- that she became irritable with staff who love her, and began to question the worth of all that she and they had done over the years. She knew that the CDC was coming and that it would eventually provide a base of funding for future operations; but she feared that closing down for several months would demoralize everyone who had given so much for so long.

It is hard to describe the joy here when staff learned of your gift -- women were jumping up and down (some crying) screaming and hugging one another. They knew that despite the full forces of the State against them, they had won -- that now the doors would stay open until the CDC arrived.

Your gift instantly refueled Ruby. She is her old self -- strong, determined, with hope -- and an inspiration to those who work with her.

Thanks, Maya.

In the struggle,

