

### Dear Friends,

Just before I started to write my letter for this month's newsletter, Kathy McClure, Tangram's director of development, handed me a piece of paper to read. What I was looking at were words written by one of Tangram's Direct Support Professionals, a young man named Alex Irwin, whom I have known for almost 25 years. After reading what Alex had written, I decided that there was no need for me to write a letter because I wouldn't be able to write anything better than what he had. It is my great pleasure to share his words with you. What follows is the content of his Firstgiving.com page, which will be used to raise money for Tangram. I hope you enjoy his thoughts.



Sincerely,

Connie Dillman  
President/CEO

## 25 Days of Tangram

### You are an important piece of the puzzle...

Tangram's name is based on an ancient Chinese puzzle comprised of 7 geometric shapes which can be combined to form over 10,000 different figures. Just as the puzzle pieces can be arranged to form seemingly endless shapes, we create lives of unlimited possibility for those living with disability. During the 25 Days of Tangram, we invite you to explore the various ways you can help Tangram continue to provide those we serve with the full spectrum of life experiences. There are plenty of ways to get involved (see blue box on back)! So go ahead—*find where you fit in!*



### From Alex:

"2010 has been a great year for me. I've found a job that I love, doing work that never ceases to be meaningful. My job as a Direct Support Professional has introduced me to some of the most amazing people I've ever met in my life. Embracing the community and being embraced by the community while working with clients has reconnected me with my hometown of Indianapolis in ways I never could have imagined. 2010 also marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the great organization that I'm so fortunate to work for, Tangram.

As Tangram turns 25 years old, I want to try and end the year by giving them a little something back in return for all they've provided for me. That's why I'm undertaking 25 Days of Tangram with the hopes of raising \$25,000 in 25 days. The money we raise is essential to the mission of Tangram and the clients we serve in and around Indianapolis.

Indy is a city built for the automobile and without easy access to a car it can be very difficult to immerse yourself in this community. Tangram provides its support staff with travel reimbursement funded in part by donations like yours. This money allows staff to bring our clients into the community where they work, volunteer and are active citizens. While it means everything to our clients to have steady access to a mode of interacting with the city they live in, the city and its residents benefit just as much when our clients are out and about.

The people in our community who live with disabilities can be the best conduits of compassion that a city could ever ask for. Tangram is an organization that does everything it can to support these individuals as vital members of our community. I urge you to donate whatever you can and hopefully, in 25 days, we'll have \$25,000 for Tangram to keep helping some of Indianapolis' most important individuals truly be a part of our community." -Alex Irwin

*Donate any of these dollar amounts and we will recognize you with your name on the corresponding puzzle piece and post it to our website:*  
[www.thetangramway.org/25\\_days\\_of\\_tangram](http://www.thetangramway.org/25_days_of_tangram)  
(or click on the puzzle pieces on Tangram's homepage)



5155 Pennwood Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205  
[www.thetangramway.org](http://www.thetangramway.org)  
P: (317) 571-1042  
F: (317) 571-1043



## \$25,000 in 25 Days Choose 3 Ways to Give

- "Like" Tangram on Facebook
- Follow @Tangram\_Indy on Twitter
- Subscribe to Tangram's daily blog
- Ask friends, family, colleagues to do numbers 1, 2, 3
- Donate online
- Send us a check
- Charge by phone
- Donate through social media
- Visit Alex Irwin's Firstgiving.com page
- Donate wish list items (see [www.thetangramway.org](http://www.thetangramway.org))
- Ask your employer about matching gifts
- Volunteer
- Collect spare change for 25 days and donate the total to Tangram
- Pledge \$25 a month to Tangram for a year
- Set a challenge: tell family and friends you will give \$5 for every \$25 they give or will match \$50 gifts up to ten gifts
- Host a poker night, charge a \$5 entry fee, and ask winners to split the pot with Tangram
- Use GoodSearch.com
- Use GoodShop (visit above website)
- Be creative! Call Kathy at (317) 968-9033 for more ideas!



# FirstGiving™

Visit Alex Irwin's FirstGiving page!

Go to:

[www.firstgiving.com/alexirwin](http://www.firstgiving.com/alexirwin)

There, you will be able to learn more about Alex and Tangram, donate to Tangram, and spread the word to your family, friends, and colleagues.

## What is 25 Days of Tangram?

25 Days of Tangram is a new approach to Tangram's Annual Year-End Fundraising Appeal. We are shaking things up this year to bring you a more fun and interactive experience. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 in 25 Days in celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

25 Days of Tangram will kick off on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The theme for 25 Days of Tangram is "Possibilities." From November 22<sup>nd</sup> until December 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be blogging, tweeting, and posting to Facebook. Each day will have a different focus with different opportunities for participation. In addition to blogging and updating our social media each day, we will e-mail once a week. All social media sites, website, blog, and e-mails will have a donation link which will take you to a safe and secure donation page.

## Where does the money go?

We are raising money so our clients can have access to:

1. Reliable transportation to take them to work, volunteer jobs, church, grocery store, etc.
2. Affordable, well maintained homes in safe and desirable neighborhoods.
3. Emergency funds when needed for food, clothing and basic necessities.



## Connect 2 Tangram

**Sign Up** for Tangram's monthly e-newsletter, Imagine a World. Our print edition only comes out quarterly, so if you want to receive all of our monthly news, send Lindsey VanDyck an e-mail with your name and e-mail address to start receiving the newsletter. Type "Newsletter Sign-Up" on the Subject line. Send it to [lvandyck@thetangramway.org](mailto:lvandyck@thetangramway.org). Or call Lindsey at (317) 968-9048.

**Schedule a Speaker** for a meeting. Tangram's President/CEO, Connie Dillman, is happy to speak to your organization. We offer workshops on disability, such as Disability in the Workplace, Respectful Communication, or Disability Awareness. Contact Connie Dillman at [cdillman@thetangramway.org](mailto:cdillman@thetangramway.org) or call her at (317) 968-9024.

### Contact Info

Connie Dillman, President/CEO  
[cdillman@thetangramway.org](mailto:cdillman@thetangramway.org)  
(317) 968-9024

Carol Christopher, Director of IT  
[cchristopher@thetangramway.org](mailto:cchristopher@thetangramway.org)  
(317) 968-9020

Steve Clossey, Director of Marketing/Properties and Assets  
[sclossey@thetangramway.org](mailto:sclossey@thetangramway.org)  
(317) 968-9049

Lynne Conant, Director of Human Resources  
[lconant@thetangramway.org](mailto:lconant@thetangramway.org)  
(317) 968-9034

Kathy McClure, Director of Development  
[kmcclure@thetangramway.org](mailto:kmcclure@thetangramway.org)  
(317) 968-9033

Steve O'dore, Director of Behavioral Health Services  
[sodore@thetangramway.org](mailto:sodore@thetangramway.org)  
(317) 968-9050

Melissa Steele, Director of Compliance and Risk Management  
[msteele@thetangramway.org](mailto:msteele@thetangramway.org)  
(317) 968-9054

Angie Tyler, Director of Finance  
[atyler@thetangramway.org](mailto:atyler@thetangramway.org)  
(317) 968-9028

Peter Zubler, Director of Community Support Services  
[pzubler@thetangramway.org](mailto:pzubler@thetangramway.org)  
(317) 968-9049

### Tangram Board of Directors

#### Chair

David Jose, Esq.

#### Vice-Chair

Robert Fechtman, Esq.

#### Secretary

Barry Hart, R. Ph.

#### Treasurer

Kevin Sullivan, Esq., CPA

#### Immediate Past Chair

Nancy Cuning, CFP

Ron Ernst

Paula Gartner, PE, LEED, AP

Terry Johnston, ABR

Tammie Barney

TiJuan Lumpkin

Cito Mamaril

Michael Peoni, AICP

Wanza Schweiger, CEBS

Tim Worthington