[Company Letterhead]

Date

Dear family member,

I am writing to let you know about Opening Minds through Art (OMA), an intergenerational art program for people with dementia at [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-facility name]. OMA has been serving people with dementia in the greater Cincinnati area since 2008. The program has four goals: a) to promote social engagement, autonomy, and dignity of people with dementia (PWD) by providing creative self-expression opportunities; b) to provide staff and volunteers with opportunities to build close relationships with PWD; c) to show the public the creative self-expression capacities of people with dementia through exhibitions of their artwork; and d) to contribute to the scholarly literature on dementia and the arts.

Volunteers (college and high school students, staff members, and community volunteers) work 1:1 with their partner in a weekly art-making activity during the academic year. Art-making in OMA brings the elders and the volunteers closer, transcending the age divide. The impact of OMA on the well-being of the elders and on the transformational learning in the volunteers has been published in academic journals. Video data analysis of the elders in the OMA program shows that when compared to traditional activities, such as scrap-booking and other arts & craft activities, elders with dementia in OMA show greater pleasure and social engagement and substantially fewer signs of confusion and agitation. In short, the research demonstrates that OMA succeeds in achieving its goals.

Your family member is invited to participate in the program. You are welcome to observe this exciting program at any time. We are at [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-facility name] on [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-day and time of OMA sessions] during the academic year, starting on [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ first OMA session] until [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - last OMA session].

Enclosed is a permission form for you to sign and return to me in the self-addressed, stamped envelope.

If you have any questions about OMA, please feel free to contact [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-staff name, tel. and email address].

Sincerely yours,