



**Merrill Lynch**

Families of Children  
with Disabilities Program

No matter how much **money**  
you have, you may **not**  
have **enough**  
to provide **for**  
the future of **your**  
special needs child or **loved one.**

with

without

# with

Special Needs Planning

You place **\$300,000** in a **specialized trust**, along with a **\$250,000** life insurance policy. Through the trust, the funds are **professionally managed** for the support of a developmentally disabled beneficiary.

At age 18, your child or loved one begins **receiving government benefits** at \$20,000 a year and receives supplemental funds from the trust.

The trust supplements the **income** of your child or loved one for **30 years** or more.

Your child or loved one is **financially secure**. Upon his or her death, any remaining trust assets will pass to your designated residuary beneficiaries.

# without

## Special Needs Planning

Your child or loved one receives **\$300,000** from family **savings** and **inheritances**. The assets are placed in a checking or savings account, which earns a **small** amount of **interest** each year.

As owner of the assets, your child or loved one is **ineligible for government benefits**. The cost of basic needs is \$30,000 a year, which is withdrawn from the cash account.

After **12 years**, the assets in the **account** will be **depleted**.

Your child or loved one must then **apply for government benefits**, which will be his or her **only means** of financial support with no additional funds available for even the simplest luxuries.

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At Merrill Lynch, **we understand** the financial,  
of clients affected by the disability

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## **Planning is crucial**

As the parent or guardian of a special needs child or loved one, you should be aware that the financial decisions you make today will affect your child or loved one for years to come. Without planning, even affluent families may deplete household wealth as they struggle to provide their children with lifelong medical and personal care. And gifts of assets from extended family members may not benefit your child as fully as possible without professional guidance.

## **Planning provides answers**

The Merrill Lynch Families of Children with Disabilities Program can help you develop a plan to ensure the financial security of your special needs child or loved one, while successfully building, managing, preserving and transferring household wealth. Your Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor and a team of special needs professionals will work closely with you and your professional advisors to balance the critical role of government benefit programs with specialized discretionary trusts and insurance policies. You'll even gain insight into "nonfinancial" issues—such as education, skill development and social needs, housing, medical care and guardianship—so your plan will include lifelong quality care provisions for your child or loved one.

planning

## familial, psychological and physical **challenges** of a child or loved one.

### **The Merrill Lynch Families of Children with Disabilities Program offers:**

- A personalized, written financial plan that helps you integrate special needs with other financial goals.
- Guidance on obtaining government benefits for your child or loved one, which may provide the core of financial support throughout his or her life.
- Tools for determining the cost of providing supplemental funds that can preserve your child's quality of life. These include a Special Needs Calculator, which Merrill Lynch developed to identify the lump sum required to meet your child's lifetime needs and to provide cost analyses of different care alternatives.
- Information on establishing a Special Needs Trust and choosing funding, trusteeship and asset management alternatives.
- Advice on financial planning for the entire family, so that parents can arrange for equitable distribution of their estate, and grandparents and other extended family members can provide financial supplements without sacrificing your child's eligibility for benefits or their own tax and estate-planning goals.

### **To get started**

As a first step toward establishing a comprehensive financial plan, we suggest starting with the Special Needs Calculator, which is available on our Web site (see below). A Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor can assist you in determining your financial planning needs, putting together a team of professionals and drawing up a customized financial plan for you and your family that will help ensure your child's future well-being.

**For more information, call your Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor or (800) MERRILL (637-7455).**

**Or visit our Web site at <http://askmerrill.ml.com/specialneeds>.**

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