Dear Mary:

It has often been said that pen and paper are not always adequate to communicate heartfelt thanks and appreciation. We, the Board of Directors of the Deaf Communications Institute, wish we could convey this special "thank you" message to you face-to-face on your last day with DCC/DCI.

We want to thank you for the more than five years of devotion you have given to the cause of electronic mail for the hearing impaired. At the inception of the project in April 1978, you took a germ of a new idea and made it blossom. You worked long and faithfully to introduce so many of us to the wonderful world of computers and electronic mail communication. You became friends with many of us an encouraged us. You championed the cause of electronic mail and its potential for the deaf. We felt your enthusiasm, bubbling good humor, dynamicity, and leadership at board meetings and on the system. The going was not always smooth, but you kept on fighting for an idea you believed in.

We all feel a deep sense of sadness as the time draws closer for DCI to close its doors as a business enterprise. But we rejoice in knowing that we have planted a seed and know that it will bear fruit one day. Looking at history, pioneers were not always able to achieve their goals immediately, but eventually their goals were realized. We feel this way about the Deafnet and want to thank you for the major role you have played in nurturing the seed we've planted. Without your indefatiguable spirit and faith, we would have never progressed as far as we have.

We wish you well in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

The DCI Board of Directors