



Advocacy and Services for People with Disabilities
Oneida-Lewis Chapter NYSARC

245 Genesee Street • Utica, NY 13501

Immediate News Release

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CONTACT: Aida Mariani, Director
Community Development
The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter NYSARC, Inc.
315-272-1532

KAREN LAWLESS MAKES A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

Utica, NY – For over 10 years 52-year-old Lawless has been volunteering her time to help others at places like Hospice and Palliative Care in New Hartford, NY, the Lutheran Homes in Clinton, NY and many other not-for-profit agencies in Oneida County.

"I like to help others feel good because it makes me feel good," Lawless said as she placed groceries into an already full cart at a local Wal-Mart just days before the Thanksgiving holiday. "They need my help so I'm happy when I do it."

Every Wednesday Lawless and The Arc community specialists like Rosalind Davis grocery shop for the individuals at Hospice and Palliative Care. With a shopping list in hand and a mission to complete, there is no stopping this spunky, fun-loving woman. "She is doing something good for others and accomplishing so much," Davis said. "Karen has a big heart."

Cheri Misiak, program director for The Arc Oneida-Lewis Chapter Kirkland Day Hab agrees. She said that individuals served through The Arc are aware that their disability may actually give them the ability to make a difference in someone else's life. "They have often stated to me that they alone may have made a difficult time a little easier for someone else... they equate it to the slogan on our commercial 'What we do at the Arc, your heart will understand'," Misiak explained.

And that is exactly the case for Lawless who is able to see that there are others in her community with serious situations and problems who persevere thanks to volunteers like herself.

The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter, NYSARC is a non-profit human services agency which provides advocacy and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oneida and Lewis counties.

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