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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of the Arc Foundation Welcomes New Board Members at January Meeting

Utica, NY- The Friends of the Arc Foundation at The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter welcomed two new board members at their January 15, 2013 meeting. Jean Palmer, a young woman with a strong public relations and marketing background that works for the BOCES system; and Brian Bellair, a gentleman known as an advocate and educator in the Whitesboro Central School District. Both come highly recommended by many on the board and within the agency.

Palmer has served as the supervisor of the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison (OHM) BOCES School Communication Service since June of 2009. She previously worked at SUNY Cortland as a staff writer in the college's public relations office for more than a year and a half. Palmer began her public relations career at the OHM BOCES in 2002 as a public relations assistant after graduating from Utica College with a degree in public relations and journalism. Jean has served as a chairperson for the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y., since 2006 and has been a volunteer since 2001.

Bellair has worked as the Director of Special Programs and Services at the Whitesboro Central School District since 2005. He was the elementary school principal for five years prior to that. Bellair is a graduate of MVCC, SUNY Cortland, SUNY Oswego, and SUNY Institute of Technology. He is currently pursuing his PhD at SUNY Albany. Bellair was awarded the New York State Outstanding Educator of the Year in 2011. He is a known advocate for students with disabilities in the local community.

For more information about The Friends of the Arc Foundation, call 315.272.1529.

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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