



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

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27th Annual Friends of the Arc Foundation Gala

Utica, NY-

The Friends of The Arc Foundation held its 27th Annual Gala on January 19, 2013 at the Yahnundasis Golf Club in New Hartford

The evening was filled with delectable entrees prepared by award winning Chef Michele DiGiorgio and entertainment was provided by local favorite Showtime. The Gala raised \$28,000 for programs and services that support those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Proceeds from this event are used for Community and Family Services, Employment Services and other unfunded programs at The Arc. Every dollar raised stays local in Oneida and Lewis counties.

At the 27th Annual Arc Gala, The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter honored **the Anson family** for the example, strength and dedication they show to their own son and to protecting the rights and safety of all persons with developmental disabilities.

At the center of Lisa and Patrick Anson's world is a handsome 7-year-old boy, Brett. Born into their lives on March 8, 2005, Lisa says he has given every person who has met him the "gift of light."

Brett was diagnosed with a birth injury known as Cerebral Palsy at the age of three months after his parents noticed the crowning on his head had not gone away. The Anson's were told that damage had been done to Brett's brain. Their doctor stressed the importance of getting him involved in different forms of therapy while he was young so the healthy parts of his brain would compensate for the part that had been damaged.

The Anson's have spoken to many others about their journey as they raise Brett, and how The Arc has supported their family and his needs. During 2012, the family was invited to attend audiences with Governor Andrew Cuomo who was working diligently to create a new Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs, an initiative that will transform how the state protects over one million New Yorkers in State operated, certified or licensed facilities and programs.

The Anson family serves as an example to all parents, caregivers, and everyone at The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter.

Also honored was **Assemblyman Anthony J. Brindisi**, The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter was pleased to honor Assemblyman Anthony J. Brindisi, who represents the 116th Assembly District that includes Utica, Rome, Marcy and Whitestown. The Arc honored him for his dedication and commitment to the entire community.

Assemblyman Brindisi has shown true commitment to children, senior citizens and the developmentally disabled. Since his election in 2011, he has attended numerous Arc functions where he honored long time staff, met with administration and board members on key issues that impact people the agency serves, and presented individuals with humble thanks for the example they set for persons with disabilities living and working in our community.

For more information about The Arc please visit www.thearcolc.org or call 315.2725.1528

Pictured left to right: Brett Anson, Patrick Anson and Lisa Anson.

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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