



# The Most Precious Cause

**Stephanie Weter is a proud mother and participant in ARC Broward's Preschool PLC (Parent Leadership Committee). Like many parents, her children are the most precious part of her life. Stephanie loves speaking with friends and neighbors in the community, and frequently takes the opportunity to share the story of the last four years, which have improved her perspective of parenting and given her a lifelong cause that she shares with friends and advocates at ARC Broward.**

On February 3rd, 2006 our son Grant was born extremely premature at 23 weeks; I wasn't even 6 months pregnant. Unfortunately, we lost his twin sister after only one day which makes us realize what a true miracle he is. Grant weighed 1 pound 4 ounces and was 11 inches long. The doctors informed us that he had less than a 24% chance of survival, and that if he survived he would most likely face a life of multiple health problems and developmental delays.

When Grant was 2 years old, his neurologist informed us that his MRI showed PVL, a permanent, irreversible brain injury as well as Cerebral Palsy. Obviously, this would change the rest of our lives. We had to change our "Oh, he'll eventually catch up" attitude, and accept and learn our new life as parents of a 'special needs' child. There was so much

that he couldn't do and he still seemed so young and fragile. Grant's physical therapist recommended ARC Broward, and said that it was the one school that she consistently heard the best things about.

Knowing that we needed to be proactive in order to provide the best opportunity for Grant, we visited the ARC Broward campus for a tour. We met with the ESE Specialist and I warned her that I would probably cry. She gave me comforting words of encouragement which helped me to feel more at ease.

When Grant started ARC August of 2008, he could only say two words and wasn't able to walk independently. I was soon amazed how

quickly he adapted to his new environment. He can now take independent steps, has adapted well to social interaction, and can say more than 20 words and sign 7 words.



The warm smiles I now see from all the staff at ARC Broward remind me of a family. From the minute I walk in the door, I am greeted by positive reports of progress from people that work with my son every day.

Through the dedicated staff of ARC our lives are forever changed. I am pleased to be able to share

Grant's story, knowing that everyone who comes to support ARC Broward with a donation or spreading the word about their work is doing a great service in helping to make a difference in so many peoples' lives.



*Pictured above, the ARC Broward Preschool graduating class of 2009. As kids like Grant achieve success and make great strides in their therapy and growth, they each earn the honor to walk the stage with their peers in June of their fifth year as they successfully transition to public school.*



"I wish to congratulate all the graduates at the ARC Broward Preschool Graduation ceremony for a job well done and continue success in the future. I would also like to thank all the staff, parents, and family members that made this occasion possible due to their dedication and caring attitudes."  
—Representative Franklin Sands, Florida House of Representatives, 98<sup>th</sup> District

**You can play a part in supporting "The most precious cause," the lives and well-being of some of the most vulnerable members of our community, by making a donation to support the programs and services provided by ARC Broward today.**

If you or anyone you know is interested in supporting ARC Broward, there are several easy ways to participate in the Season of Giving...

- 1 Complete the included donation form and return it to ARC Broward in the enclosed envelope.
- 2 Go to our website at [WWW.ARCBROWARD.COM](http://WWW.ARCBROWARD.COM) and click on DONATE NOW.
- 3 Contact the ARC Broward Development Office and provide credit card information by calling Matt Leachman at (954) 746 9400 or email [mleachman@ARCBroward.com](mailto:mleachman@ARCBroward.com).

Give Today!



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**Community Impact Initiative**  
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**Mission Based Enterprises**  
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Learning Institute  
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Dear Friends:

As our community faces record unemployment and housing losses, the need for services to support basic human needs has risen to unprecedented levels. Health and Human Services agencies are at the breaking point and struggling to keep up with increasing demand.

Individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities are impacted particularly hard in these trying times. Since we simply cannot abandon those who depend on us, we are reaching out to our longstanding and new friends to help those in need through this difficult time.

Please help the individuals and families who depend on us by making a contribution to ARC Broward. Let them know you'll continue to be there for them when it matters most.

Most Sincerely,

Steve Pattison  
Board Chair

Dennis Haas  
President / CEO



# The Season for Giving

Your help today gives opportunities to kids like Grant to achieve goals in their growth and future well being.

## GIFT OPTIONS

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ARC Broward is a 501(c)(3) organization. You will receive official acknowledgment for your generous donation. The registration number issued by the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for ARC Broward is SC-00514. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained by calling (800) 435-7352.



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