

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Media Contact: Dave Carro*

[dcarro@happinesshouse.org](mailto:dcarro@happinesshouse.org)

585-286-9711 x1322

## **2016 Autism Awareness Walk Raises Nearly \$32,000**

**Canandaigua, NY (March 23, 2016)** Autism Services of the Finger Lakes at Happiness House hosted its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Autism Awareness Walk on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at Eastview Mall. Over 600 pairs of feet helped raise nearly \$32,000 which benefits Ability Partners Foundation in support of the services Happiness House offers to individuals of all ages exhibiting characteristics of, or diagnosed with, autism.

Robert Quinn, Jr. and Hayden Orr shared the spotlight as honorary Co-Chairs of this event. Robert's diagnosis of autism has kept him involved with Happiness House for most of his life. His accomplishments have been many, including being awarded Volunteer of the Year from United Way of Seneca County and earning his Eagle Scout badge through the Boy Scouts of America. Robert presently holds the position of Assistant Scout Master for a troop of special needs scouts.

Four-year old Hayden Orr was diagnosed with autism when he was one and began attending Happiness House when he was two. He attends New Friends Preschool five days per week and receives multiple therapies. Hayden enjoys spending time playing outside, doing puzzles, and listening to music. Thanks to Happiness House, Hayden will be entering kindergarten this fall!

This year's Walk sponsors include Bill Cram Chevrolet, Brian and Kelly Meath (In honor of Dylan Carlson), Premier Physical Therapy Service of the Finger Lakes PLLC, Dr. and Mrs. Elmar Frangenberg, Wilson Press, Wiretek Communications, Inc., Bloomfield Rotary Club, and Bond, McDonald and Lehman, P.C.

### **About Happiness House**

*Happiness House is an educational, residential, health and human service agency that has been serving communities in the Finger Lakes region in Upstate New York since 1969. Today, with sites in Geneva, Gorham, Canandaigua, South Seneca, and Waterloo, Happiness House offers an array of programs and services for children and adults with and without disabilities who reside in Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates counties. On average, it serves a total of 1,150 individuals and their families each year.*

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