

Friends of Jonathan

The Friends of Jonathan is currently putting on a fundraiser for Jonathan Angelosanto. Many of you may already know Jonathan, for those of you who don't please allow us to introduce him to you. Jonathan is the son of Joseph and Katie Angelosanto. He is eleven years old and resides with his Dad, Mom, his two younger sisters and younger brother in Clarkston, Michigan. He was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 2 years old. Due to his extreme intolerance to medication, most of which make him very aggressive, he has undergone 3 brain surgeries to control his epilepsy. The last surgery initially showed some hope of control, however, after a few months his seizure activity returned to what it was prior to surgery, 3 to 5 grand mal seizures a night. Due to the fact that the seizure focus is in the brain's motor strip, it does not look like further surgery will be an avenue of gaining control of his seizures.

Jonathan not only faces the challenge of epilepsy but he has a brain injury as well. It is the right side of Jonathan's brain, which is damaged. The right side of the brain holds the keys to helping one interpret their environment and how to respond appropriately. Thus one can see that it is very *difficult* and *exhausting* for Jonathan to socialize within a group of people, even with people he knows very well. Sadly, the pharmaceuticals only exacerbate this disability.

As one can see Jonathan's needs are diverse and many. The following is a brief overview of his needs:

- * Tutoring by a Brain Injury Specialist
- * Psychological therapy
- * Environmental Allergist - working to lower Jonathan's chemical sensitivities and metal toxicities
- * Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy/Sensory Integration
- * Nutritional Supplements
- * Applied Behavioral Analysis
- * One on one therapist/educator trained in Applied Behavior Therapy

Jonathan's future is very bleak without the above ancillary support. Jonathan shows great potential of gaining ground when one is capable of being extremely consistent with great intensity. The family's goal is for Jonathan to obtain his greatest potential by either creating an environment with the above support here at home, or to have Jonathan attend an institute for children with neurological disabilities.



This is where *Jonathan needs your help.*

I leave you with a couple of quotes from Jonathan as he was conversing with his mother:

~While watching the news coverage of the Pope's death Jonathan said, "Mom, I will never get to heaven; I act too mean a lot of times."

~Later when asked why he was acting so mean and making poor social choices, Jonathan stated, "Mom, it is so hard for me to live in this world."

~When trying to express to Jonathan that his behavior is becoming a danger onto others and if he doesn't learn how to make better choices, then he would have to go live in a hospital. Jonathan's response, after many tears, was, "Mom, would they teach me how to be nice?"

Jonathan has a very tender heart, which is sometimes skewed by the inability to make appropriate choices and by the irritability and paranoia caused by the pharmaceuticals, especially the anti-epileptic drugs. Jonathan's greatest desire is to be part of this world and community; however, it is near to impossible without the right therapy and training.

Please, will you help Jonathan learn how to be part of this world!

Sincerely,

Friends of Jonathan