

## Ollie's Arc Ugly Pants Fashions Show Speech (3-31-11)

Hello Everyone:

My name is Ollie Jones IV...and this is my lovely wife Tracy and our three wonderful and precious children: Nya (12-years old), Janae (9-years old) & Jadon (14-months old). We have been an Arc family for the past five (5) years. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter, Janae was born with a very rare condition known as Arterial Venous Malformation (AVM), which led to Cerebral Palsy (CP). When we moved here from up North 6½ years ago, we were very worried and concerned about finding a facility that would meet Janae's special needs. To our surprise and amazement, we discovered The Arc, which provided PT, OT and Speech Therapy and could rival any facility of its kind in New York and Pennsylvania.

The Arc and its very warm and caring staff has been such a blessing to Janae and our family. They truly care about the children...always trying to improve their lives and encourage parents to be more proactive and involved in their children's physical development. Two years ago, one of the Arc's wonderful physical therapist recognized my skills & background in engineering & manufacturing and encouraged me to design physical therapy equipment to help my daughter Janae, and the other children at the Arc, which soon led to a new business, hence Janae Designs.

My most popular device, the Wedgster, which can be seen in my brochure located on your table, is a passive exercise device that stretches the tight hamstrings and adductor muscles of children with cerebral palsy to help prevent or minimize leg scissoring and orthopedic surgical intervention. My equipment has helped many children here in South Florida and I have received numerous testimonials from parents, therapists and doctors, which can be viewed on our website. In addition to the Arc, my equipment is being utilized in other schools, homes, and organizations such as United Cerebral Palsy in Miami. Unfortunately, there are so many families out there without insurance and lack the ability to afford physical therapy equipment for their special needs children. That breaks my heart and I am constantly seeking opportunities to help such families. My goal is to one day be able to offer my equipment free to all children in need. Last year, I started the Janae Designs Charity Golf Tournament and raised enough funds to provide free Wedgsters to three local families.

Although I am currently a one-man operation, I feel that with continued hard work and the love & support of others, Janae Designs will be a huge success. I thank the Arc for their help in giving birth to Janae Designs and the role they have played in our lives...and we look forward to helping thousands of children like Janae improve their quality of life and reach their full potential. Sadly, many people in society write off children like Janae and those at the Arc as second-class citizens...without worth. Well, Janae is a perfect example that these children do have value and worth. More than anyone else in my life, Janae has taught me the true meaning of unconditional love, how to give fully of myself, and she continue to help me become the best person I can be. She is a happy child and brings joy to so many lives.

If I may share just one last thing of how Janae has been a blessing to others.... Something very unexpected happen last month involving Governor Rick Scott's Statewide sponsored Black History Month Essay Contest Celebrating African American Leaders in Business, Past, Present & Future, with the winner receiving a FULL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP. To my surprise, my former business partner Richard Marvez called to inform me that his 7<sup>th</sup> grade daughter, Gabrielle Marvez, decided to enter the contest and wanted to write her essay on Janae Designs. Two weeks later, I received another call Richard with the wonderful and exciting news that Gabrielle won the essay contest and would be traveling to Tallahassee Florida to meet Gov. Rick Scott and to receive her COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP....Gabrielle and her family are here today (please stand). Could we give her a round of applause for her great accomplishment! Her essay can be viewed on my website at [www.JanaeDesigns.com](http://www.JanaeDesigns.com).

Lastly, for you wonderful and caring donors out there, please continue to support the Arc in their efforts to provide help, hope & effective services to children like Janae and families like ours. Thank you & God bless.