



Our son is 24 years old, has autism and is very limited in speech. He had two beautiful "Buddies" that danced, laughed, snapped selfies and absolutely made his night, possibly his year! As parents/caregivers of special needs people, we often have to do a lot of explaining when attending special events or anything where people are new to "us". It was so nice to just show up and know it was "okay", no explanation necessary, and just have fun. Most would say about "The Night to Shine" that there were a lot of very happy people in pretty dresses and suits just dancing, laughing and having a great evening...I saw something different. I saw the Lord at work. A place where everyone matters, everyone is welcome and everyone is loved. I witnessed the kindness in the smiles of the Volunteers that helped us, the caring in the "Buddies" faces as they made the participants feel so special and gave the Parents/Caregivers a much needed rest. I felt the love in the church that hosted this event because you opened your doors and gave us your very best. I am sure on a Friday night, there are many places one could be, but all of these volunteers sacrificed their time to make an average Friday night become magical for so many people. I am one of those people. My son did not tell me that he had a fantastic night, but the smile on his face said it all. We have not seen that smile, that big, for that long.....in a very long time. We are so grateful to you all. We are confident that the Lord will surely bless you for your kindness and compassion. What a wonderful reflection of Christ!