

'A Child's Light' springs from darkest hour

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DRACUT -- When Bob Logan's grandson, Devin Matthew Logan, was born on Christmas Day 2004, the baby -- the family's best present ever -- spent his first few weeks of life in the hospital after his premature birth.

Logan described his grandson as "a tough little guy" who finally was strong enough to come home. While Devin lived with his mother, Logan's then-teenage daughter, in Dracut, the baby also saw his father, Andrew Roberts, 20, of Nashua, N.H.

But on Father's Day 2005, Logan received a phone call from his daughter that would forever change his life, triggering his creation of the nonprofit agency A Child's Light of Dracut.

Devin, his daughter said, was being flown by medical helicopter to Boston's Children's Hospital, suffering from seizures. He had spent the night with Roberts.

His grandson had been shaken so severely that he suffered brain and spinal injuries, doctors told him. He would never recover.

On June 21, 2005, 6-month-old Devin was taken off life support and pronounced dead.

Roberts admitted to violently shaking the baby while in a fit of rage because he could not deal with the child crying. On May 24, 2007, Roberts was sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to a reduced charge of manslaughter, perjury for lying to police and making a false police report.

Logan and his wife, Kim, decided to turn their grief into a positive movement to bring attention to the problem of abusive head trauma/shaken-baby syndrome, "a purely preventable form of child abuse," he said.

In memory of Devin Matthew Logan, A Child's Light was born.

"My immediate goal for A Child's Light is to work with professional health-care organizations to assist in facilitating the implementation of educational plans that provide evidence-based infant-abuse prevention programs," said Logan, who, along with his wife, founded the organization in June 2011.

Logan, who is president, works with six directors and dozens of dedicated volunteers who put their hearts and souls in the organization.

A Child's Light is holding a fundraiser Saturday, from 7 to 11 p.m., at Lenzi's restaurant, 810 Merrimack Ave., Dracut, to raise money to fund the programs the nonprofit agency offers. Tickets are \$25 or donations can be made online at childslight.org.

A Child's Light raises money to fund supplies for the successful Infant Cap program, which locally distributes knit and crocheted baby caps to new parents or caregivers along with information that educates parents about normal infant crying, ways to cope and the dangers of shaking an infant.

The nonprofit organization also purchases educational materials for participating hospitals in Massachusetts and New Hampshire to provide abusive head trauma/shaken-baby syndrome prevention training.

Two years ago, A Child's Light presented 240 swaddle blankets to Lowell General Hospital to be used in the hospital's community classes and for the benefit of infants in the Special Care Nursery.

Earlier this year, A Child's Light was nominated for one of Enterprise Bank's Non-Profit of the Year Award under its Celebration of Excellence awards program.

For information on A Child's Light, visit childslight.org or email Logan at info@childslight.org.

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