



NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 10, 2013

Contact: Sharon Holbrook-Ryan

Phone: 518-954-3265

Email: ryans@libertyarc.org



Liberty awarded their 2013 Good Neighbor award to Alpin Haus in recognition of the positive work opportunity they have provided to two individuals in the agency's supported employment program. R to L – Liberty CEO Mike Decker with Andy Heck and Ron Craig of Alpin Haus.

Liberty Recognizes Community Partner and Good Neighbor

SCOTIA - Liberty announced the recipients of the agency's 2013 Community Partner and Good Neighbor awards at their Annual Dinner at Riverstone Manor on May 9. The organization recognized Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FM) as this year's Community Partner. Alpin Haus received the organization's 2013 Good Neighbor Award.

Liberty's Chief Operating Officer, Candace Opalka introduced the Community Partner award, explaining that the intent of the annual award is to recognize a company or community organization that has shown outstanding support and commitment to people with disabilities in the agency's programs. Fulton Montgomery Community College received the award because of their ongoing dedication and enthusiasm towards Liberty's involvement with the Community Garden project and other endeavors at the college.

"Fulton Montgomery Community College has welcomed individuals in Liberty's program on many levels, most significantly with the building and maintenance of the FM/Liberty community garden," said John Glode, Liberty Regional Director. "In addition, there are works of art created by individuals in our program on display throughout the campus, artists visit FM's Day Care to host art classes and a few Liberty individuals are currently attending class at the college. "

In his acceptance comments, Dr. Dustin Swanger, President of FM, recognized faculty members Marlene Guiffre, Robin DeVito and John VanBladen, for their ongoing efforts to promote the relationship between Liberty and the college.

Alpin Haus was recognized as the 2013 Good Neighbor award in acknowledgement of the friendship and employment opportunity they have provided to a small work crew that helps out at the company's 5S facility.

Opalka stated, "Andy Heck and Ron Craig of Alpin Haus approached Liberty Enterprises' managers asking if they had a crew available to provide regular clean-up of RV's and to take care of some janitorial tasks. David Lopez, Kevin Cleary and job coach, Kathy Delos, were thrilled to take on this work opportunity. It has been a great experience. Not only do they feel wanted and appreciated at Alpin Haus, but the staff goes out of their way to ensure they feel part of the team."

Andy Heck, President of Alpin Haus, accepted the award on behalf of the company. He noted, "The individuals who are involved with Liberty work crew are always smiling and more than willing to help out wherever they are needed. They are truly members of our employee team at Alpin Haus."

Other individuals and businesses nominated were: Cyndi Tracy, nominated by individuals and staff at Liberty's 66 Church Street, Canajoharie Day Habilitation Program; Lorraine Larbell, nominated by Tammy Collins from Liberty Staff Training & HR department; Handy Ups and Downs, nominated by Nora Pavlak; and Beech-Nut Nutrition Corporation, nominated by Bill Sikora and Bernie Masterpolo.

Liberty also honored 14 individuals involved in the agency's Church Street Day Habilitation Program, citing their many contributions to the local community resulting from nearly 5,000 hours of volunteer service. Liberty's Community Commitment Award recognizes individual and group dedication to volunteerism and making their community a better place.