



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Liberty Artist Wins Top Award at State Conference**

**Bolton Landing-** Liberty artist Mark Klug recently took home the first place award at the New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies (NYSACRA) annual art show, a part of their state conference, held at the Sagamore Hotel, Bolton Landing, NY.

Approximately 100 artists from other ARC's participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual art exhibit and reception which is aimed at celebrating the artists and creative achievements of individuals with disabilities. The juried art show is a highlight of the three-day conference.

Mark's winning piece, titled Cityscape, is three-dimensional artwork made with scrap barn wood, layered on top of each other to create the effect. Various colored glass stones were added to fashion a starry night sky. Mark has been a participant of the *Liberty Through the Arts* Program for two years and thoroughly enjoys painting and watching others create.

The *Liberty Through the Arts* program began in 2009 to inspire, celebrate and showcase the creativity of the individuals involved. The framework of the program has evolved into regularly scheduled art classes at various locations and continues to grow. Throughout the years and on varying levels, approximately 100 individuals regularly contribute to the art program whether it be through painting, drawing, poetry, photography and more.

Founded in 1957, Liberty is a not-for-profit organization serving over 550 individuals with developmental and other disabilities. Liberty offers vocational, day and family support and residential services in Montgomery County and in the State of Delaware. The organization also operates New Dimensions in Health Care, providing dental and medical services at 40 Wall Street, Amsterdam, NY; Priority Care, which refers in-home care giving in several counties in the State of Florida; and Liberty Fresh Market a bulk-food store and training program aimed at equipping the individuals Liberty supports with skills necessary to obtain, maintain or advance in competitive employment or self-employment.

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