



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Contact: Sharon Holbrook-Ryan**

**Phone: 518-954-3265**

**Email: ryans@libertyarc.org**

### **Liberty and Price Chopper/Market 32 Announce Employment Partnership**

**AMSTERDAM-** Liberty, the Montgomery County ARC, and Price Chopper/Market 32 announce the formation of a collaborative employment partnership. The collaboration is focused on enhancing and continuing job training provided at the Liberty Fresh Market. The primary mission of Liberty's market is to support and prepare individuals with disabilities to successfully enter the workforce.

"Liberty is very proud to be a part of this innovative initiative with the Golub Corporation, which is centered on giving individuals with developmental and physical disabilities the tools they need for meaningful employment," said Liberty CEO Jennifer Saunders. "It's very important that individuals involved continue to build upon the skills they have obtained through the market's program. This partnership, with the area's most well-known neighborhood retail grocery chain, is exactly what our market employees need in order to realize their employment goals."

Liberty and Price Chopper/Market 32 have worked together to develop employment expectations, best practices and identify a plan for an employment mentorship program. The training program includes various aspects of the retail environment including retail skills, gaining an understanding of the importance to follow company policy and procedure, learning how to work as a part of a team, and effective communication techniques for the workplace.

The program is already seeing success with the employment of two of Liberty Fresh Market's store clerks. Bethany Cramer and Breaua Theobald are now store associates at the Amsterdam Price Chopper. They both worked at Liberty Fresh Market for a year while receiving employment support through Liberty's Pathway to Employment service.

"Fostering an inclusive work environment has played such a significant role in defining who we are as a company," said Price Chopper/Market 32 Vice President of HR Operations Mike Miller. "This collaboration with Liberty is very exciting for us because it provides additional credibility to that mission. Bethany and Breaua are just fantastic teammates, so right out of the gate we have proven this program can be very successful and mutually beneficial to both organizations."

“We are thankful for the interest, commitment and partnership from the Price Chopper/Market 32 in preparing and supporting individuals with disabilities to achieve employment,” said Liberty Director of Vocational Services Erin Abele. “Following the onsite tour at Price Chopper Bethany and Breana each had an intense interview, did great and were offered a job. They have been working at Price Chopper for a little over three weeks, and are both looking forward to the next steps in their career path!”

Based in Schenectady, NY, the Golub Corporation owns and operates 135 Price Chopper and Market 32 grocery stores in New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The family-managed company prides itself on longstanding traditions of innovative food merchandising, leadership in community service, and cooperative employee relations. Golub’s 22,000 teammates collectively own more than 47% of the company’s privately held stock, making it one of the nation’s largest privately held corporations that is predominantly employee-owned.

Liberty Fresh Market is focused on providing its customers with fresh, local products as well as a wide offering of bulk-food items. The training program, operated by Liberty ARC aims to equip the individuals Liberty supports with the skills necessary to obtain, maintain or advance in competitive employment or self-employment. The Market has been in operation since August 2014.

Liberty, the Montgomery County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. was founded in 1957 by parents of children with developmental disabilities who wished to establish special education programs in the local community. Over the past 58 years, the organization has grown to include vocational, residential, day, family support and health-related services to nearly 580 individuals with physical and developmental disabilities.

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