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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberty Appoints New Board Member

AMSTERDAM- Donna M. Canestraro has been appointed to the Liberty Board as its newest member. Currently, Canestraro works as Program Director for the Center of Technology in Government at the University at Albany and has been serving on Liberty's Foundation Board for the past year.

Canestraro and her family have a long and rich history with Liberty with Canestraro's father, Vincent Sollecito, serving on the Liberty board and the family's support of the Sollecito Scholarship fund. The fund, which is administered through Liberty, was founded in 1968 by Vincent and Rosalyn Sollecito in memory of their son, Christopher. Christopher, who was born with Down syndrome, died at the age of 2 1/2. The family set-up the fund in order to assist students interested in pursuing a degree in special education or other fields serving people with disabilities. The scholarship, started in 1968, has awarded thousands of dollars to students studying human services, special education, and related fields since its inception. The intent of scholarship was to assist students from Montgomery County who planned a career working with people who have disabilities, but also to ensure the special education and disabilities field has qualified job applicants entering the workforce.

"I am thrilled and honored to take an active role with such a wonderful organization and serve on the Liberty Board," said Canestraro. "Liberty's contributions to the community are an integral part of helping individuals with disabilities to achieve a quality of life each person values. I am honored to follow in my parents' footsteps and give my all to such a worthy organization."

Donna has experience in the fields of education and training, marketing, management, and customer service. Prior to joining CTG, she was the Program Manager with the Professional Development Program at the University at Albany's Nelson A. Rockefeller College.

Founded in 1957, Liberty is a not-for-profit organization serving over 540 individuals with developmental and other disabilities. Liberty offers vocational, day and family support and residential services in Montgomery County, as well as an out-of-state agency in Delaware, MA. The organization also operates New Dimensions in Health Care, providing dental and medical services at 40 Wall Street, Priority Care,

which refers in-home care giving in several counties in the state of Florida and Liberty Fresh Market a fresh food market 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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