



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Sharon Holbrook-Ryan

Phone: 518-954-3265

Email: ryans@libertyarc.org

Liberty Presents Awards at Annual Dinner

AMSTERDAM - Liberty announced the recipients of the agency's 2016 Community Partner and Community Commitment awards at their Annual Dinner at Riverstone Manor on April 14. The organization recognized The Fort Johnson Volunteer Fire Department as this year's Community Partner. Liberty's Helping Hands program participants received the organization's 2015 Community Commitment Award.

Liberty's Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Saunders introduced the Community Partner award, explaining that the intent of the annual award is to recognize a deserving company or community organization that has shown outstanding support and commitment to people with disabilities in the agency's programs. The Fort Johnson Fire Department received the award because of their "tremendous support of individuals in Liberty's programs for the last five years". Two individuals Liberty supports, Jamie Fredricks and Ann Handy, volunteer through the fire auxiliary.

Liberty also honored 12 individuals in the agency's Helping Hands program, citing their volunteer service and involvement in the community. Liberty's Community Commitment Award recognizes individual and a group's dedication to volunteerism and making their community a better place. Those individuals honored were: Tiffany Bottomly, Ray Clapper, Kelly Coluni, Jorge Crusado, James Getsch, David Haviland, Jeremy Langdon, Matthew Novak, Genesis Santana, Ken Shumaker, John Spak and Richard Stankes.

For the first time, Liberty bestowed awards on three employees who were nominated by their fellow employees for Employee of the Year. This award recognizes an employee for excellence on the job. This year's recipients are:

Luke Klim was honored for his support position in the facilities management department. He was nominated for his professionalism, positive attitude and his willingness to help out with anything, at any time.

Megan Barry was honored for her position in Liberty's residential program. She was nominated for her dedication to advocating for individuals in Liberty's programs, she's respectful to and stays connected with her staff and she makes sure that everyone is happy and has a good time.

Melissa Jonker was honored for her position as a management staff. She was nominated for her caring attitude with her staff and the individuals she supports, her quick attention to staff issues and concerns and her outgoing and encouraging manner towards everyone.

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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