

NYSARC Grant Fund Theatre Production



Liberty ARC (the Montgomery County Chapter of NYSARC) received grant funding through NYSARC Trust in the amount of \$12,500 in 2016. The intent of the grant is to enhance the agency's recreation programs for people with developmental disabilities. Liberty ARC's Family Support Services Program utilized a portion of this grant funding to bring the Missoula Children's Theater (MCT) to the area. The mission of MCT is to foster creativity and enhance innate capabilities of participating children by providing access to community-driven performing arts experiences.

Individuals under the age of 21, supported through Liberty ARC's recreation program, had the opportunity to audition and were awarded parts. Actors rehearsed every day for a week, culminating in a showcased production of Peter and Wendy (an adaptation of Peter Pan) which was performed in October at the Wilbur H. Lynch Middle School in Amsterdam.

The grant funding was also used to purchase microphones and sound equipment to ensure the actors voices were adequately projected during this and future similar productions,

This is the third consecutive year that Liberty has utilized the services of MCT. "The MCT theatre program provides an opportunity for each performer to experience the special talent each person brings to the production", said Catherine Mowrey, Director of Family Support Services. "They learn the value of teamwork and see firsthand that each person is key to assuming that the show is a success."

The Trustees of the NYSARC, Inc. Trust approved a remainder fund grant of \$12,500 for each of its 48 member chapters for the purpose of providing recreational opportunities for people they support. A total of \$1,874,000 in remainder grants was awarded in 2016 to support recreation and guardianship statewide. NYSARC Trust Services administers supplemental needs trusts that enable people with disabilities to remain in their home and community while retaining Medicaid services and other government benefits. Information about NYSARC Trust Services is available at their website www.nysarctrustservices.org, by phone 1-518-439-8323, toll free phone 1-800-735-8924 or e-mail info@nysarctrustservices.org.