



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Local ARCs Take Gold at Winter Special Olympics**

**Poughkeepsie, NY-** It was a gold medal finish for the Capital Region floor hockey team comprised of individuals from Liberty ARC (Montgomery County) and sister agency Lexington Center (Fulton County). The team of 11 beat out three other teams to finish first in their division.

The Special Olympics New York State Winter Games were held this past weekend, February 17-18, at various venues throughout the Hudson Valley. The floor hockey competition was played out at the Stewart Air National Guard in Newburgh, NY. The Capital Region team practiced together for seven weeks at the Bishop Burke gym in Gloversville, NY. They were coached and encouraged by staff from both agencies.

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 60 years, the organization has grown to include vocational, recreational, residential, day, family support and health-related services to nearly 580 individuals with physical, developmental and other disabilities.

Lexington, Fulton County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc., is a private, not-for-profit agency providing a wide range of services to adults and children who are disabled in Fulton and Albany Counties. Created in 1953 by a group of concerned parents, Lexington is recognized as one of the leading agencies of its kind in New York State.

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Photo- (L-R) Jochuamh Paris (Liberty ARC), Donald VanEtten (Lexington), Ross Carangelo (Lexington), Josh Brooks (Lexington), Kim Rickard, Andrew Smith, Matt Summerfield, Michael Gotel, Ryan Decker, (Liberty ARC) Colonel Wagner (Stewart Air Force Base). Front Row from the left: Taylor Clendenan, Shannan Blankenbaker (Liberty ARC).