



NEWS RELEASE

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Liberty Presents Awards at Annual Dinner

AMSTERDAM - Liberty ARC announced the recipients of the agency's 2017 Community Partner and Community Commitment awards at their Annual Dinner at River Stone Manor on April 13. The organization recognized The Honorable Paul D. Tonko as this year's Community Partner. Liberty's Mohawk Day Hab program participants received the organization's 2017 Community Commitment Award.

Liberty's Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Saunders said, "It is fitting that, in its 60th year, Liberty honors Congressman Paul D. Tonko with our Community Partner award. Congressman Tonko has been a tireless supporter of the agency for many years, evident with his attendance at Liberty events and programs throughout the years as well as his extremely important representation of the disabled community's interests on the federal level."

"The intent of this award is to recognize a deserving community individual or organization that has shown outstanding support and commitment to people with disabilities in the agency's programs," said Saunders. "It is without a doubt that Congressman Tonko is truly deserving of this honor. He has been a friend to Liberty ARC over the years and we are very proud to honor him with this award."

"For more than half of a century, Liberty has delivered vital support and advocacy for individuals with disabilities in our community. I am humbled to receive this special recognition from such an extraordinary organization," said Congressman Paul Tonko. "Even in these uncertain times, I take heart in knowing that our past work together has made a difference. Now, more than ever, we need to be ready to fight for the programs and services that matter most for our families, our community and for others throughout our nation."

Congressman Tonko is serving his fifth term representing New York's 20th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He has been a leading voice on the Energy & Commerce committee where he fiercely defended against cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act during the recent healthcare debate. He has proposed legislation to help Medicaid providers that serve individuals with disabilities, and to help families save for disability-related expenses.

Liberty ARC also honored 15 individuals and staff from the agency's Mohawk Day Hab program located in Canajoharie, NY. This group received Liberty's Community Commitment Award for their many years of volunteer service to their local community. For the past several years they have sponsored a carnival for the Canajoharie Youth Center at which approximately 60 children attend each year and enjoy carnival games, a bouncy house and of course, cotton candy. These individuals play an integral role in coordinating and manning the event, helping to run the games and food booths. They also sponsor a Halloween Trunk or Treat event that reaches over 100 children. Liberty recognized the following individuals for their volunteerism and making their community a better place.

Liberty ARC, 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. Currently celebrating 60 years of quality services, 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.

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