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### **Liberty ARC Receives Grant to Enrich Recreation Program**

**AMSTERDAM-** Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc., has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from Stewart's Holiday Match program. The funds will be used to enhance the agency's Family Support Services (FSS) recreation program by helping to underwrite an annual theatre residency. For the past three years the FSS program has worked with the Missoula Children's Theatre (MTC) to present full-length theatre productions; Rapunzel, Aladdin and Peter & Wendy.

The partnership with MTC has been extremely beneficial for the individuals in the FSS program providing them with new opportunities; such as learning the audition process, how to work as a team in practices and the dedication needed to present a play. More than 20 individuals, under the age of 21, participated in the performance under the tutelage of two professional actors associated with the Missoula Children's Theatre. Plans for a fall production of Cinderella are already in the works for this October.

The Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) is a traveling production troupe that focuses on developing life skills in children through education, entertainment, enrichment and participation in the performing arts. Their mission is to foster creativity and enhance innate capabilities of participating children by providing access to community-driven performing arts experiences.

The Stewart's Holiday Match program is run from Thanksgiving Day through Christmas with customers donating more than \$926,000 in 2016. The funds were doubled to more than \$1.85 million with the Stewart's match. The program's funds benefit organizations/programs for children in the areas of social services, health, education, recreations, and the arts.

Liberty ARC is the largest provider of services to individuals with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities throughout Montgomery County. The agency provides traditional day, vocational, residential, recreational and family support programs to nearly 529 adults and children with varying disabilities.

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