



Liberty ARC Employee Given National Award

Honoring work in support of community living for people with disabilities

AMSTERDAM- Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, is proud to announce that Luis Rosario has been named the 2018 New York State Direct Support Professional (DSP) by The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR).

ANCOR's Direct Support Professional Recognition Award is given to those who personify the values of ANCOR's National Advocacy Campaign, which works to ensure a well-trained and sustainable direct support workforce. Nominees are judged on the work they've done to build social networks, substantive community participation and advocating for the people they serve.

Luis was nominated by a fellow employee and was highlighted as an employee who "has a huge heart and is truly inspired to help people. He does not simply do things that people need, he assists them in learning how to do it for themselves." It goes on to say he specifically has made a life changing impact for a couple he supports, "A husband and wife were very overweight and having a difficult time health wise. Luis supported goals that were put in place for them to exercise [going to the gym, walking (with a Fitbit) and use of their own exercise equipment] as well as portion control. Both individuals have lost approximately 75 pounds and are feeling great!"

"Liberty ARC is extremely proud of Luis being recognized by ANCOR as their 2018 NYS DSP. Luis has been an outstanding employee for the ten years he's been with the agency," said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders. "He has truly made a lasting and significant impact in the lives of those he supports. Every day, he exceeds his daily job responsibilities, consistently looking for meaningful experiences as well as ensuring those he supports have the highest quality of life they want and deserve. Luis exemplifies the importance of a direct support professional in the care of individuals with disabilities."

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) – also referred to as caregivers, personal care assistants, direct care or homecare aides – provide a rich mosaic of daily support services for the many Americans with disabilities. DSPs are integral in supporting people with disabilities to participate in their communities and lead full and independent lives. Since 2007, ANCOR has honored exceptional Direct Support Professionals with the Direct Support Professional Recognition Award for exemplary work in furthering community inclusion and full participation for the many Americans living with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities.

“The work that DSPs do makes a difference, not just to the people with disabilities they support, but also to the full community they participate in socially and economically,” said Angela King, president of ANCOR. “DSPs like Luis deserve recognition for the difficult but meaningful work they do every day.”

“When it comes to supporting people with disabilities in the choices they make and being included in society, DSPs are the front line workers we rely on,” said Barbara Merrill, CEO of ANCOR. “These awards are just one small measure of saying thank you to individuals like Luis.”

“This year, hundreds of organizations sent ANCOR nominations highlighting DSPs from across the nation,” continued Merrill. “While all the DSPs nominated do important work every day, Luis particularly stood out. His work at Liberty ARC makes a difference for the people he supports and he can be proud of what he does every day.”

On April 17, ANCOR will present Luis with the Direct Support Professional of the Year award at their annual conference.

About ANCOR

The American Network of Community Options and Resources is a national trade association representing more than 1,400 private providers of community living and employment supports and services to over a million individuals with disabilities with a workforce that’s half a million strong. ANCOR advocates for the crucial role private providers play in enhancing and supporting the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

Through its National Advocacy Campaign, ANCOR seeks to obtain the resources to recruit, train and retain a sustainable direct support workforce. ANCOR provides organization, professional, leadership development and networking opportunities and services and is continually working toward partnerships and collaborations that support our mission, which is to advance the ability of our members in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to fully participate in their communities. www.ancor.org.

About Liberty ARC

Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, was founded in 1957 by parents of children with developmental disabilities who wished to establish special education programs in the local community. For over 60 years, the organization has provided the area with top-quality supports and has grown to include vocational, recreational, residential, day, family support and health-related services to nearly 580 individuals with physical, developmental and other disabilities. For additional info about Liberty ARC- www.libertyarc.org.

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