



NEWS RELEASE

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Liberty ARC Celebrates Community at Annual Dinner Community Organization Honored for Outstanding Support to Those with Disabilities

AMSTERDAM - [Liberty ARC](#) announced the recipients of the agency's 2018 Community Partner and Community Commitment awards at their Annual Dinner, held on May 2, at River Stone Manor. The organization recognized the [Montgomery County Office for Aging](#) (OFA) as this year's Community Partner and Mr. Joe Davey received the organization's 2018 Community Commitment Award.

For many years, Liberty ARC and the Montgomery County Office for Aging have had a strong relationship that is beneficial for both populations each agency serves. Individuals that Liberty ARC supports regularly volunteer for OFA; assisting with meal deliveries, meal site preparations, shopping for the pantry and assisting with outdoor maintenance for the elderly.

"Being able to make a difference in the lives of those who live in the community is a top-priority for many of the individuals Liberty ARC supports. Seeking, securing and maintaining a working volunteer relationship with the Montgomery County Office for Aging has opened the doors to make this path possible," said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders. "OFA richly deserves the 2018 Community Partner award because of their continuous commitment to work with the agency, those we support and our staff in order to make our community a better place."

Joe Davey, a participant in Liberty ARC's Family Support Services program, received the 2018 Community Commitment award. Joe was honored for his outstanding support of his neighbor. Mr. Davey helps his 97-year-old neighbor with many tasks: bringing in her mail, visits with her, and anything else he can do to make her life easier. Joe takes it upon himself to assist his neighbor; without any staff support or recognition.

"Joe truly exemplifies the spirit of this award; his commitment to his neighbor is inspiring and is a model of goodness for us all," said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders. "Liberty ARC is proud of Joe and honored to present him with the 2018 Community Commitment award."

Liberty ARC also recognized their Employees of the Year at the dinner. The following outstanding employees were presented:

Program Employee of the Year- Beth Watkins
Support Employee of the Year- Sheree Kretser
Manager of the Year- Nick Pawling
Associate Director/Director of the Year- Stacey Antos

“All four of these individuals are more than worthy of this recognition. They are dedicated, self-motivated leaders in their respective departments and are well-respected throughout the agency,” said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders. “Beth, Sheree, Nick and Stacey take on challenges and succeed, they look to grow in their positions while encouraging their staff; all while doing an excellent job assisting those we support. I’m proud that Beth, Sheree, Nick and Stacey are a part of Liberty ARC; they make a difference.”

Liberty ARC acknowledged the following, at the dinner, as well as nominated and swore in their Board.

Special recognition was given to Liberty ARC individuals who have been with the agency for 35 years. Those recognized were Edith Fonda, Claudia Canale, and Peter Terplak.

The following board members were honored for their milestone years of service: Liberty ARC Board- Carol Cuyler and Carl Pucci 20 years of service, Valerie Zabo 15 years of service and Paul DiCaprio five years of service, Kelly Swart was honored for 10 years of service for both the Liberty ARC Board and New Dimensions in Living Board and Ben Ziskin was recognized for his 10 years of service on the Choices for Community Living Board.

Sworn in as Liberty ARC Board officers for the 2018-2019 term were: Paul DiCaprio, president; Donna Canestraro, vice-president; Michael Bucciferro, secretary; and Carl Pucci, treasurer. The following directors were sworn in for the 2018-2020 term; Ken Adamowski, Donna Canestraro, Carol Cuyler, Paul DiCaprio, Brett Harris, Carl Pucci, Kelly Swart, Psy.D., Rev. Dr. Lisa Vander Wal. They join current standing directors (2017-2019 term) Michael Bucciferro, David Fariello, Karreene O’Neil, Sally Romano, John Rose and Valerie Zabo.

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 more than 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.

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