

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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On November 27th, Bill Albertin passed away after a short illness. There are people who during their lifetime, make a real difference in the lives of others – Bill Albertin is one of those people. Bill is a founding parent of Liberty. He and his wife Joan became involved with Liberty in the early 60's. They were the parents of a son, Dale, who was born with Down Syndrome. They could have been volunteers who helped out at bake sales or even served on the Board for a few years. We would have been grateful for that assistance and involvement.

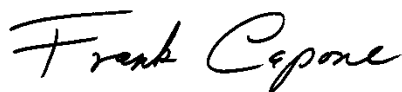
That is not the type of people or the type of parents they were and are. Bill is the one that stepped up and joined the Board with Joan's support. He, along with some of his early compatriots on the Board – Vince Sollecito, Nick Manginelli, Wesley Linquist, Cookie Jagiel and others – went to the community to make the case for Liberty House. They advocated local and state legislators for funding, they petitioned local school systems to provide educational programs, they asked local businesses to provide work opportunities and much, much more.

Bill never walked away from Liberty even after his son Dale passed away and he and his wife retired to Florida. He was a Board member for over 51 years. His legacy has been carried on by his daughter Valerie when she joined the Board in 2003; she now serves as President.

From the beginning, Liberty has relied on volunteer Board members to help the organization grow. There is a long list of generous volunteers who have contributed to Liberty's success. Bill Albertin is at the top of that list. Starting with a few individuals and unpaid staff, he shared a dream of making Liberty the best it could be for people with disabilities and their families who need quality supports and the opportunity to experience a fulfilling, happy life.

At present, Liberty is the largest provider of services to people with disabilities in our community, serving over 650 children and adults and the second largest employer with 850 staff. The organization offers day, residential, vocational, family support and health related services as well as operating programs in other states that ultimately help sustain services in our community.

Over the years, Bill Albertin made a big difference in the lives of thousands of people because he had a vision and was committed to seeing it through. He did it with little fanfare and no pay. The term hero is thrown around with some frequency these days. Bill Albertin was the real thing.



Frank Capone, CEO
Liberty, the Montgomery County Chapter NYSARC, Inc.