



## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Sharon Holbrook-Ryan (Liberty ARC NY Contact)  
518-954-3265  
[ryans@libertyarc.org](mailto:ryans@libertyarc.org)

Steve Knight (CCL Delaware Contact)  
302-677-1375  
[stevenk@libertyarc.org](mailto:stevenk@libertyarc.org)

### Delaware Agency Chosen to Lead National Volunteer Efforts

**DOVER-** Choices in Community Living–Delaware (CCL Delaware), a local organization that provides supports and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) will lead local volunteer efforts in honor of the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. CCL Delaware was one of 12 organizations throughout the United States chosen by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), through The Arc, to plan and execute volunteer projects that will unite Americans in service with a focus on addressing food insecurity in vulnerable populations.

CCL Delaware will partner with the Delaware Meals on Wheels and community volunteers to assemble snack bags on Thursday, January 11, to kick-off the 2018 MLK Weekend of Service. Participants will meet at the Delaware Meals on Wheels located at the Modern Maturity Center, East Conference Room, 1121 Forrest Ave. in Dover at 2pm to put together the bags that will be a healthy and “special” addition to regular weekend meals deliveries. Then on Friday, January 12 the snack bags will be delivered to approximately 1,100 home-bound seniors in Kent County.

The 2018 MLK Day of Service is observed each year across the country. The Arc, a national organization advocating for individuals with I/DD, provided funds, this year, to 12 of their chapters. These local chapters will be involved in service events throughout January and February where individuals with I/DD will volunteer alongside people without disabilities in an activity related to access to healthy food.

“We are very honored and humbled to be chosen to not only participate in but to lead volunteer efforts that reflect the vision and principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King’s vision was not only justice for African Americans, it was a struggle to overcome social and economic disparity wherever they exist,” said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders. “As a subsidiary of Liberty ARC, CCL Delaware shares the same values and mission. We see offering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities a quality life that provides positive and diverse opportunities as an extension of Dr. King’s vision. Volunteering and giving back to the communities we live and work in are cornerstones of that effort.”

Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans participate in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service, the nation's largest day of civic engagement. In 1994, Congress designated MLK Day as the first and only federal holiday observed as a national day of service, and charged CNCS with leading this effort.

### **About The Arc**

The Arc advocates for and serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), including Down syndrome, autism, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, cerebral palsy and other diagnoses. The Arc has a network of more than 650 chapters across the country promoting and protecting the human rights of people with I/DD and actively supporting their full inclusion and participation.

### **About Choices for Community Living**

Choices for Community Living Delaware, Inc., (CCL Delaware) is a subsidiary of Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York. CCL Delaware began providing services to eight adults with developmental disabilities in early 2004. The agency currently supports 18 individuals in New Castle County and 14 individuals in Kent and Sussex counties in residential programs. Day supports are provided for 24 individuals.

### **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 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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