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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Major Budget Cuts Threaten Programs for People with Developmental Disabilities**

AMSTEDAM, NY (03/04/2013) Liberty, the Montgomery County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc., the largest agency serving people with developmental disabilities and the second largest employer in the county, is urging the Legislature and the Governor to approve a final budget deal restoring \$120 million in State funding to programs and services for people with developmental disabilities. Liberty provides supports to 615 children and adults with disabilities in day, residential and family support programs and employs 760 area residents in full and part time positions.

A proposed 6% across-the-board funding cut to not-for-profit providers throughout the state would mean a \$2.3 million budget reduction for Liberty beginning on April 1, 2013. This cut is in addition to a 6.5% funding cut the agency received in 2011.

"Cuts of this magnitude will have a major impact on Liberty's programs," said CEO, Mike Decker. "These funding reductions will force us to rethink how much we spend on goods and services locally, how many people we hire, and the way we carry out our programs."

Liberty, along with members of NYSARC and other community provider organizations, are banding together to urge our local legislators to oppose these massive cuts in programs for the state's most vulnerable people.

"We are rallying support from the individuals in Liberty program, their families and our employees," said Director of PR and Development, Barbara Wool. "They are enthusiastically responding to this call to action because they recognize, from firsthand experience, the value of the programs that Liberty provides to people with disabilities, the people we employ and our community."

**About Liberty**

Liberty, is a member chapter of NYSARC, Inc., the largest not-for-profit organization in New York State and the United States supporting people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and their families. The organization was founded in 1957 by parents committed to creating quality supports for their family members. Liberty continues to be guided by like-minded family members and interested individuals from our community. Locally, offers Liberty support day, vocational, residential, family support and health-related programs for 5,500 area residents.