



The



LIBERTY ADVOCATE 2013

Vol. 22 Fall 2013 libertyarc.org

Budget Cuts Averted by Statewide Citizen Action

In the beginning of this year, Liberty, as well as sister agencies across New York State, faced potentially devastating budget cuts proposed by Governor Cuomo. Through a cohesive statewide lobbying effort all funding was restored to the OPWDD budget!

Liberty is proud to say that our self advocates were a crucial part of that effort and proudly represented Liberty at the Capitol in Albany and at other events.

Through this process, these well-spoken and passionate individuals had the opportunity to meet Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. The Assemblyman, the father of a son with a developmental disability, was very supportive in the following months, which ultimately helped to restore funding.

Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk was also another great supporter in this effort. Both the Senator and Assemblyman held a press conference at sister agency Schenectady ARC to announce their opposition to the cuts and to pledge to fight on behalf of all individuals with developmental disabilities.

We also thank board members, family members, and staff for their staunch support during this time.

The responding call to action from Liberty, along with members of NYSARC, other community provider organizations, and our legislators helped avert these massive cuts in programs for the state's most vulnerable people. ♦

Thanks to all!

Upper right— Liberty's Self Advocates await being recognized in the Assembly Chambers during a recent session.

Right— Meeting the Assemblyman

*Front: Tiffany Macan, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, Maggie Rodriguez
Back: Board Member Carl Pucci, Allan Salza, Liberty Staff Alison Wallace, Adobi Woods, and Breuna Theabold*

It was a successful day! Much was learned and a new friend was made.



Thank you to all who supported our 2013 Annual Appeal.



Donors will be listed in our Spring publication.

LIBERTY

43 Liberty Drive
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518.842.5080

**Caring About Each Other.
Committed to the Community.**

**Best Wishes for a
Happy New Year!**



affiliated with The Arc, a national organization on intellectual and/or developmental disabilities

VOLUME 22

The Liberty Advocate is a publication of Liberty, the Montgomery County chapter of NYSARC, Inc. Its purpose is to provide relevant information and maintain on-going contact with parents, members, staff, and the community.

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A Message from the President



Ken Adamowski, President

It is very likely that most of you are already aware that our CEO, Mike Decker, has accepted a new position at the New York City Chapter of NYSARC. The Chapter is one of the largest agencies in the United States serving nearly 15,000 people with disabilities. This position will provide an excellent career challenge for Mike, while offering him the opportunity to enhance the lives of thousands of people in the New York City area. Mike has served Liberty for 24 years; we wish him well and want him to know that he will always be considered part of the Liberty Family.

For Liberty, a new day is upon us. We have an opportunity to look closely at our leadership, assess the needs of the organization, the associates and the people we serve. All of those elements are parts of our search for Liberty's next Chief Executive Officer.

There will be a short period of time after Mike's departure, on January 3, 2014, when we will not have a CEO in place. We are referring to this time as the "interim period." In an effort to keep everyone up to date on the plan to find our next CEO, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to share the plan for this "interim period" with you.

The Board of Directors, in collaboration with Liberty's existing management and industry consultants, has looked closely at our culture, to develop the best way to ensure continued forward progress during our search. The leadership culture at Liberty is based on a team effort. We want to be certain that Liberty keeps moving ahead on our journey with this consistent team form of leadership. Collectively, all of the members of the Liberty family bring a tremendous amount of talent to our organization. As a result, we have made great progress in our journey from "very good" to "excellent." This progress is the result of individual commitments to our departmental goals and to our strategic plan.

After careful collaborative consideration of many options for the interim period, we have decided to have a select team of leaders assume the "CEO Leadership" responsibilities. This team is referred to as "the Cabinet." The Cabinet members are Chief Financial Officer, Jennifer Saunders; Chief Operating Officer, Candace Opalka; and Director of Human Resources, Judie Stobel. This team approach to CEO Leadership responsibilities will guide the day-to-day operations until a new CEO is selected. The Board of Directors has the utmost confidence in the abilities of these accomplished leaders, and each of them has assured us this is a challenge which is within their skill sets. We are certain this plan affords us the ability to keep our agency moving forward on its journey of excellence.

Over the coming months, the Board will work in conjunction with the Cabinet to identify and interview a broad and diverse pool of candidates for the position of CEO. We will keep you informed as we go through that process.

Finally, I would like to assure you that Liberty is a strong organization that will continue to provide the quality supports we all have come to rely upon. As always, we will work together to support individuals with disabilities and others in need, to achieve a quality of life that each person values.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Cabinet. We are here to support you with whatever you may need. ♦

With best regards,

Ken Adamowski

Meeting Senator Tkaczuk and Assemblyman Santabarbara

Within the past year Liberty has gained two staunch supporters in newly-elected Senator Cecilia Tkaczuk and Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara. Both representatives were crucial in the fight to restore funding to the OPWDD budget cuts, at the same time pledging to continue their support in the future.

A wonderful friendship has grown from that invaluable time spent together. In early May, Assemblyman Santabarbara attended Liberty's Annual Membership Dinner and spoke of meeting Liberty's self advocates and how impressed he was with what they had to say and how well they represent Liberty. The Assemblyman also made a stop at the kick-off for Liberty Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament.

In early July, Senator Tkaczuk joined Liberty individuals at the Erie Canal Historic Site to welcome John Robinson as he stopped in Amsterdam on his bike journey, which started in Buffalo.

Liberty was then proud to host the Senator as she toured our Amsterdam facilities. She took the opportunity to speak with individuals and was presented with a beautiful piece of artwork from an artist in the Through the Arts program.

Liberty looks forward to a long and positive partnership with these NYS representatives in the years to come. ♦



Above: Senator Tkaczuk with Liberty Board member Robert Purtell and his daughter Heather.

Upper left: John Robinson and the Senator talk during his stop in Amsterdam as he rode across New York to raise awareness about those with disabilities.

Left: Assemblyman Santabarbara speaks at Liberty's Annual Dinner.

How Our Garden Grows

With the assistance of two grants, the Liberty/FM Community Garden will continue to expand. A \$25,000 award from Walmart Foundation is supporting the construction of a greenhouse and equipment that will extend the growing season and educational opportunities for students on campus and in the community. The design phase for the project is underway. A \$1000 grant has been awarded by BBL

to purchase benches and planters to surround the garden.

Both grants have helped tremendously to make this endeavor a success, thus taking it to the next level.

The 2014 growing season looks to be plentiful! ♦



Dining to Donate, a Delicious Cause

Liberty Foundation held a fun and yummy fall fundraiser at the Recovery Sports Grill in Amsterdam. A portion of each check went to the Foundation.

There were also two raffle purchases offered. Vivian Fitz-James was the winner of the 50/50 raffle and Robin Moller won 20 \$5 scratch-off tickets.

Thank you to all who joined us and helped raise more than \$800 for individuals and families supported by Liberty Foundation.

A special thank you to the owners of Recovery Grill, BBL Inc., manager Dave Lapine, and assistant manager Kaitlyn Baker.

Your support is greatly appreciated. ♦

Vivian Fitz-James

Robin Moller



Visit the new look of Liberty's website today!

libertyarc.org

Liberty Foundation Donations

If your name has been omitted we apologize. Please let us know so we can acknowledge your gift in our next newsletter, 518.954.3203



Our sincere thanks to the following individuals, families and businesses who contributed to Liberty Foundation, Inc., since September 2012. We truly appreciate your support.

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19th Annual Golf Tournament

The Foundation's 19th Annual Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, June 6, at Rolling Hills Country Club. Golfers were there to support Liberty Foundation and the people with disabilities who benefit from programs funded by the organization.

Following play, the following on-course contest winners were recognized for their efforts:

Low net category: 1st Place, A.J. Augustine, Michele Furnare, Ken Moran and Ron Smith with a score of 56.7; 2nd Place, Steve Brown, Robert Brown, Jeff Coon and Ron Limoncelli--57.8; and 3rd Place, Chad Quackenbush, Terry "Creeper" Quackenbush, James Malone and Richard Miller--58.1.

Low gross category: 1st Place, Gerard Murray, Neil Thomas, Scott Shirley and Joe Sullivan with a score of 63; 2nd Place, Mike Schebel, Keith Plummer, Rich Frank and Jim Phelps--64; 3rd Place, Brennan Parker, Jim Rubilotta, Andy Rubilotta and Ken Stall--65; and 4th Place, Mike Lawless, Joe Daley, Ron Trischetta and Carl Pucci.

• Men's Long Drive on Hole #1, Terry "Creeper" Quackenbush • Closest to the Pin on Hole #2, Jeremy Meisel at 40.8" • Women's Long Drive on Hole #4, Pat Beck • Closest to the Pin (Team Prize) on Hole #6, Matt Kearney, Bill Bresonis, A.J. Morini and Brian Morini at 80" • Closest to the



Ron Smith and Michele Furnare congratulate each other on a good play on the green. Smith and Furnare's foursome, which also included Ken Moran and A.J. Augustine, had the low net score of the day. The 19th Annual Liberty Foundation Golf Tournament saw 119 golfers enjoying the day at Rolling Hills Country Club.

Pin on Hole #14, Pat Bresonis at 6'4" • Men's Straightest Drive on Hole #18, Andrew Sawicki at 1'3" • Women's Straightest Drive on Hole #18, Michelle Furnare at 7'5"

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and Golfers!*

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Liberty Foundation was founded in 1993 to provide funding for family support services offered by Liberty as well as other worthy projects benefiting people with disabilities in Montgomery County. Over the last 19 years, the Foundation has allocated over \$5,000,000 to help underwrite the cost of programs such as community connections, in- and out-of-home respite, evening and weekend recreation, after school and school recess programs, and other programs designed to assist families of developmentally disabled children and adults.

Golfers

Mr. Ken Adamowski
Mr. A. J. Augustine
Mr. Karl Bach
Mr. Tim Barker
Mr. Matthew Beck
Mrs. Pat Beck
Mr. Matt Becker
Mr. Scott Beckman
Mr. Jamie Bettini
Mr. Kyle Bollen
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*Save the Date
for our*



**20th Annual
Golf Tournament
June 5, 2014**

*Special features are
being planned...*

It's been a busy summer for the staff and patients at Liberty's health center, **New Dimensions in Health Care!**

We welcomed full-time Primary Care Physician Dr. Jun Lei. His duties include seeing patients for primary care needs on a daily basis. Dr. Lei is board certified in Internal Medicine and has practiced as a Primary Care Physician for four years in the New York City area. The health center provides dental and medical care to those who are Medicare or Medicaid eligible.

Carondelet Grant

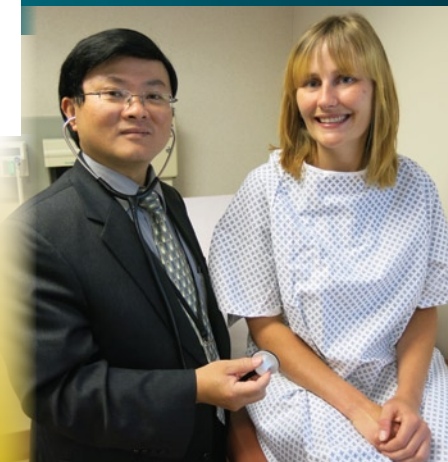
The Carondelet Community Fund provided a grant in the amount of \$1,200 for partial funding of the health center's "1-2-3 Smile" program which addresses the need to educate children ages 1-3, their parents, and pregnant women from low income households regarding proper oral hygiene and diet before and after giving birth.

Fidelis HealthCare Grant

New Dimensions in Health Care was recently awarded a \$4,950 grant from Fidelis HealthCare. It will be used to purchase hemoglobin and cholesterol analyzers.

New Board Member

New Dimensions also welcomed new Board member David Scianimanico. David currently works at BeechNut as its Chief Supply Chain Officer. ♦



*Primary
Care
Physician
Dr. Jun Lei*

"I'm eager to provide excellent quality health care while serving the Amsterdam community," said Dr. Lei. "It's very important to me to build trust and form a long-lasting relationship with my patients."

Keeping my patients healthy and giving them the option of an office visit instead of going to the hospital makes a difference to their overall health and is cost-effective."

Feather Your Nest Raffle Raises Funds for Liberty Foundation



Thank you to everyone who supported Liberty Foundation through our annual Feather Your Nest Raffle!

Winners of the \$6,000 Grand Prize were 10 staff

members from Liberty's Business Office: Donna Mochrie, Bill Pulver, Deb Barker, MaryAnn Metz, Jaclyn Hernigle, Janet Zilka, Tracy Mead, Nanette Conyne, Christine Tessiero, and Lisa Zanella.

Other winners included **four \$1,000 prizes** to Joel Kaplan of Amsterdam, Shirley Pettengill of Gloversville, Denise Slawinski of Amsterdam, and a group of winners: Janet Hayes, David Hayes, Andrew Hayes, Susan Smith, Nancy Cole, Sandra Saxton, and Mary Shoemaker.

Eight \$500 prizes went to Veronica Agosta of Pattersonville, Robert Cetnar of Amsterdam, Bob and Pauline Kosineski* of Amsterdam, Brian and Tina Blakely of Amsterdam, Anne Ricci of Johnstown, Andy Romano of Johnstown, Jeffery and Wendy Moore of Broadalbin, and William Bonafede of Amsterdam. ♦

**Donated \$250 of winnings back to Liberty Foundation!*

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Adamowski
Mr. Scott Adamowski
Ms. Veronica Agosta
Ms. Lisa Altieri
Ms. Lisa Augustine
Mrs. Marlene Augustine
Mr. & Mrs. William Bailey
Ms. Charlotte Baird
Ms. Barbara Banovic
Ms. Debbie Barker
Ms. Helen A. Bartone
Ms. Margaret Bartyzel
Ms. Rose Bazan
Mrs. Patricia Beck
Mrs. Valerie Beekman
Ms. Jennifer Bernardo
Mr. Traves Bethel
Betz, Rossi & Bellinger Family Funeral Home
Ms. Karen Bielawa
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Blakely
Mrs. Irene Bollen
Mr. William D. Bonafede
Ms. Gail Borst
Ms. Jolyo Borst
Ms. Michele Borst
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bottomley
Dr. Donald L. Bowden
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bucciferro
Mr. Jim Burroughs
Ms. Amanda Campione
Mr. Frank Capone
Ms. Jenai Cary
Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Cechnicki
Mr. Robert Cetnar
Chuck's Store
Ms. Dianne Cilento
Ms. Joanne M. Cilento
Mr. Gary Claburn
Ms. Nancy Cole
Mr. Jeff Collins
Mrs. Nancy Collins
Ms. Tammy Collins
Ms. Shirley Combs
Conestoga-Rovers & Associates
Mrs. Nanette Conyne
Mr. David Cook
Ms. Diane Crowell
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Cuyler

Mr. Edward R. Czeski
Mrs. Janet Czeski
Ms. Tara Czeski
Ms. Dorothy Danaher
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Dargush
Mr. John Davey Jr.
Mr. Phillip DeAngelo—
Focused Wealth Management
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Decker
Ms. Mary DeFilippo
Ms. Pamela DeLano
Mr. Michael DeSanto
Mr. & Mrs. Dan DiBlasi
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred DiCaprio
Mr. John DiCaprio
Ms. Michayla DiCaprio
Mr. & Mrs. Paul DiCaprio
Mr. Ross DiCaprio
Mrs. D. Dorine Dimond
Ms. Mary K. Donohue
Ms. Rose Dumblewski
Ms. Debby Figueroa
Ms. Kathy Fonda
Ms. Ellen Fowler
Friends of Fort Plain
Ms. Debbie Frame
Ms. Cecile Furlong
Mr. Richard Furman
Mrs. Patricia Gajewski
Galway Market—Ted & Kevin Loveless
Mrs. Marie Gavry
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Giaquinto
Ms. Kelly Gilston
Mr. John Glode
Mr. Corey Graff
Mr. & Mrs. Kim Graff
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Greco
Ms. Amanda Gunther
Ms. Donna Hall
Ms. Lynn Handy
Mr. Gary Hanson
Ms. Valerie Harrington
Mr. Leonard Hartvigas
Ms. Tiffany Hawkins
Mr. & Mrs. David Hayes
Mr. Andrew Hayes
Ms. Jaclyn Hernigle
Ms. Shauna Hernigle
Mr. Robert Hetzler
Ms. Sharon Holbrook-Ryan
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Holland

Ms. Susan Hornbeck
Mr. Chuck Humphreville
Mrs. Dawn Jacksland
Mr. Bernard Jaracz
Mr. Joseph Javarone
Mr. & Mrs. William Jesenski
Ms. Phyllis Jones
Mr. & Mrs. James Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Jordan
Mr. Edward S. Kacerguis
Mr. Joel G. Kaplan
Ms. Lisa Kinowski
Ms. Helen M. Kiuber
Ms. Heather Kolodziej
Mr. & Mrs. John Kolodziej
Kosiba's Lock Shop
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kosineski
Mr. Edward Kosinski
Mr. & Mrs. Michael LaCoppola
Mr. Christopher Lail
Ms. Melissa Lasher
Ms. Joyce Lee
Mr. Rusty Lewis
Mr. Daniel Lieber
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Lieber
Mr. & Mrs. William Loske
Mr. Thomas Lowe
Ms. Patty Macek
Ms. Diana Mack
Mrs. Patricia Mannino
Ms. Megan Martino
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mazur
Mr. Kenneth Mazur
Ms. Susan McGiver
Mr. Thomas McNamara
Ms. Tracy Mead
Mr. Joseph Merendo
Mrs. MaryAnn Metz
Mr. John Michalski
Mr. Jeffrey Mickle
Ms. Edith Mikenas
Ms. Donna Mochrie
Ms. Robin Moller
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Moore
Ms. Tina Morey
Ms. Louise Morreale
Ms. Catherine Mowrey

Mr. Joseph Mullarkey
Ms. Karen Mullarkey
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Murphy
Mr. Richard Murphy
Mrs. Robin Natale
Ms. Jennifer Newhook
Ms. Angela Nicoletti
Mr. Arthur Nowicki
Mr. Tim O'Brien
Ms. Sharon Oleksak
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Opalka
Mr. Cesar Ortiz
Mrs. Domitila Ortiz
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Pallotta
Mrs. Tracy Paradise
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Parry
Mr. & Mrs. James Partyka
Ms. Karen Passino
Ms. Shirley Pettengill
Mr. Claude Phillips
Mrs. JoAnn Pierek
Ms. Rosalie Playford
Mrs. Genevieve Polinski
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Pucci
Mr. Bill Pulver
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Purltell
Mr. Chad Quackenbush
Mrs. Charles R. Quinlan
Mrs. Joan Raven
Ms. Patricia Reksk
Mrs. Barbara Renda
Mrs. Anne Ricci
Mrs. Edith Richards
Mr. Frank Riley
Mr. Gary Rogers
Mr. Andrew Romano
Mr. Ronald Romano
Mr. Luis Rosario
Mr. & Mrs. John Rose
Mrs. Maggie Rowley
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Rusik
Ms. Jane Ryle
Mrs. Joan Sajdak
Mr. Joseph Santos
Mr. Traci Sarabia
Ms. Jennifer Saunders
Ms. Donna Savage
Ms. Sandra Saxton
Mrs. Carrie-Ann Schmidt
Ms. Tamara Schmidtmann
Ms. Suzanne Schulz
Mr. David Sherman

Ms. Martha Sheth
Ms. Mary Shoemaker
Mr. William Sikora
Mrs. Joan Silvermail
Ms. Alice Sise
Ms. Denise Slawinski
Mr. Chester Slezak
Mr. & Mrs. Loren Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Smith
Mr. Shane Smith
Ms. Susan Smith
Mr. Ryan Stockwell
Mrs. Judith Stoebel
Dr. Kelly Swart
Ms. Rose Tambasco
Mrs. Emma Terplak
Mr. John A. Tesiero III/
Cranesville Block Co., Inc.
Ms. Christine Tessiero
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Togaila
Ms. Susan Trumpick
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tylutki
Dr. Jack Underwood
Ms. Cathy Unislawski
Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Van Vorst
Ms. Toby VanNostrand
Ms. Elisabeth Vedder
Ms. Judy Vickery
Ms. Pam Wadsworth
Ms. Christine Ward
Ms. Patricia Wellman
Ms. Danielle Whelly
Mr. Robert Wilson
Mr. John P. Woods Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Woods
Mr. Thomas Woods
Mrs. Barbara Wool
Mr. Jim Wurz
Mr. William H. Wyszomirski
Mr. Dennis Yacobucci
Ms. Billie Young
Ms. Deanna Young
Mr. Robert Zabielski
Mr. Valerie Zabo
Ms. Lisa Zanella
Ms. Sandra Zarecki
Ms. Susan Zeppari
Ms. Janet Zilka

Liberty Through the Arts



Art in the Garden



Art Show

Artists in the Liberty Through the Arts program have been hard at work this year with numerous events and continuing their tradition of creating beautiful and inspiring pieces of art. The art program began three years ago as the brainchild of Amy Devendorf as a path for Liberty individuals to express themselves through a myriad of art applications. Since then, these programs have been developed:

Art Show

Artwork created by individuals in the Liberty Through the Arts program was on display at the **2013 Annual Creative Expressions Art Show** at Amsterdam's Century Club on Friday and Saturday, June 28 and 29. For the second year, Liberty hosted the art show to celebrate the creativity, originality, and enthusiasm of artists with developmental disabilities. On Friday, an evening reception featured artwork from Liberty and 10 other other ARCs across New York State. The exhibit was open Saturday for public viewing.

Art in the Garden

In mid-August Liberty presented **Art in the Garden**, highlighting both the art program and the Liberty/FM partnership. Held in the Liberty/FM Community Garden, visitors enjoyed artwork on display throughout the garden and were also treated to music and food.

American Legion

Liberty artists revved up their creative engines to design a custom work for the local American Legion. They presented a motorcycle-inspired mural to members of the Amsterdam American Legion Post. Fifteen members of the Legion's "rolling thunder" group roared up to Liberty's Day Supports building on their motorcycles.

The artwork was placed on sale by the Legion to raise money for its Freedom Honor Flights for Veterans. This program provides funds to help take veterans, of all wars, to Washington D.C. to visit monuments of service to our country. Liberty wanted to support the program, which runs solely through donations, at the same time honoring our military. ♦



Liberty Artwork to be Featured

It's always a great pleasure and honor when the Liberty Through the Arts program is recognized. Throughout the years, participants in the program have received awards for their creativity, talent, and dedication. That tradition continues with front cover placement on The New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies' (NYSACRA) program for its annual conference.

The theme of the April, 2014, conference is "Strong Together." NYSACRA is focused on this message because it highlights a commitment to enhancing support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the organizations that serve them.

Liberty's artwork perfectly conveys the message in a striking manner. The submission is a collage of amazing black and white photos of hands of individuals. Congratulations to the entire team of Liberty artists; special recognition to photographer extraordinaire, Bethany Cramer, and to Amy Devendorf for her inspired leadership of the project.

Great job, everyone! ♦



43 Liberty Drive
Amsterdam, NY 12010

libertyarc.org
libertycleanproducts.com



In the Community



Liberty's Family Support Services (FSS) program has had a busy fall season celebrating with individuals in the program and their families.



In early fall, a festival was held at St. Mary's Institute in Amsterdam for children the FSS program supports through their after-school, recess and summer recreation activities. Approximately 20 children, along with their family members, were treated to interactive games, face painting, pumpkin decorating and a fun bounce house!

For the adults the FSS supports a Halloween dance was held at Perthshire. The dance, attended by 31 participants, included a DJ, food, and treats for all.

Both of these events were made possible through a grant by NYSARC, Liberty's parent agency. The \$6,000 grant provides recreation support services not funded through Medicaid..



Those affected by the floods in Fort Plain were treated to lunch thanks to staff and individuals from Liberty's 7 Main Street Day Hab. A chicken, hot dogs, and baked beans barbeque was free to residents and those volunteering in the clean up.



Food was generously donated by Liberty staff Shauna Hernigle and her husband Tom, owner/operator of Tex's BBQ. Baked beans were prepared by individuals at one of Liberty's residences and rolls and drinks were donated from local businesses.

Volunteers from Unity Reformed Church in Muskegon, Michigan, take time out for a quick bite to eat. Top photo, l to r—Liberty individual Doug Savage, Liberty Staff Deb Haviland, Justin Wierengo, Anna DeYoung, Luke DeYoung, Kyle DeYoung from Unity Reformed Church, Liberty individual Jonathan Lieber, Destin Morley from Michigan and Liberty individual Ryan Stockwell.



Liberty hosted a "Summer Fun Fest" Carnival across from its Mohawk Day Support site for the Canajoharie Community Youth Center. Approximately 50 participants from the summer program had a great time playing games, having their faces painted, expending a little energy in a bounce house, and indulging in a little "carnival" food such as cotton candy, popcorn, and hot dogs. The summer program, run by the Canajoharie Youth Center, is a five-week program for children ages 8–14 in the Canajoharie School District.



Liberty was a part of something very special this past July when we had the opportunity to welcome John Robinson and those biking with him.

John's trek, "Journey Along the Erie Canal," was aimed at raising awareness for those with various disabilities.

Mr. Robinson, a quad-amputee since birth, began his journey in Buffalo and stopped at the Yankee Hill Historic Site in Fort Hunter on his way to Albany.

Over 45 Liberty individuals and staff were there to greet Mr. Robinson and talk about his journey and what it meant to them.

