



## Denim & Diamond BBQ

September 16

- Capital Region's hottest country band... *Skeeter Creek*
- Hometown BBQ celebration with great food and friends

—Save the Date—

## Raffle Drawing

October 26

- Your chance to win BIG cash prizes
  - Limited number of tickets sold!
- Ticket Order Form Enclosed—

# LIBERTY ADVOCATE

VOLUME 26 #2

## Liberty ARC Opens New Learning Center

Liberty ARC held a ribbon cutting with the Fulton Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Liberty Foundation Board members, staff and individuals to celebrate the opening of a new Learning Center/Computer Room.

This innovative computer room was made possible by a \$30,000 grant from donations to Liberty Foundation. ■

Thank you to all who generously donated to Liberty Foundation. Your giving makes opportunities, like the computer room, a reality.



### Computer Room

Above (L to R):

Front Row:

**Frank Rivera and Adobi Woods**

Back Row:

**Samantha Togaila and Bethany Cramer**



Chamber staff members **Tara Ryczek** and **Becky Dutcher**, Liberty Foundation board member **Brett Harris**, Liberty ARC board President/Liberty Foundation board member **Paul DiCaprio**, Liberty ARC board Vice President/Liberty Foundation board member **Donna Canestraro**, Liberty ARC Corporate Compliance Director/Chamber Ambassador **Sarah Quist**, Liberty ARC CEO **Jennifer Saunders**, Liberty ARC COO **Candace Opalka**, Chamber Ambassadors **Michele Harder** and **Kelly Hart**, Chamber staff member **Alex Ruggeri**.

The Learning Center offers a set curriculum of classes for the individuals Liberty ARC supports.

#### Weekly topics cover:

- Online Learning Apps
- Introduction to Computer and Technology
- Introduction to Mobile Technology
- Employment Readiness
- Internet Etiquette and Cyber Safety

#### Learning Opportunities

There is an emphasis on promoting job readiness skills through additional classes such as; networking, resume writing, keyboarding, computer software/internet navigation, online resources and word processing. Individuals will also be able to improve upon life skills like decision making, problem solving, social interaction, increasing independence and promoting/enhancing self-esteem through classroom learning.

The Learning Center is also open to individuals in Liberty ARC's After School and Recreation programs as well as to Liberty ARC staff.

#### After-School and Recreation Program Offerings:

- Creativity development
- Gaming
- Internet Access (focus on web safety and apps to increase life readiness skills)

#### Staff Development:

- Agency Management Software and Intranet Communication Application
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Keyboarding

# Liberty Foundation Donations

## Donations May 1 through June 28, 2017

We thank the following individuals and business for their support of Liberty ARC's mission by making a donation to Liberty Foundation, Inc. If we have omitted your name, we apologize for our error; please let us know so we can include you in the next issue.

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### ◆ ARC CAR DONATION PROGRAM

Mr. Matthew Osheyack

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*In Memory of Josephine Sikora*

Mr. & Mrs. John J. Thomas

*In Memory of Edna Waits*

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Fredericks

*In Memory of John P. Woods*

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Woods



43 Liberty Drive • Amsterdam NY 12010  
(518) 842-5080  
libertyarc.org



Are you looking to participate in or sponsor an upcoming event? Please contact us at [events@libertyarc.org](mailto:events@libertyarc.org).

## 2017 Liberty Foundation Golf Tournament Donations

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Ms. Sheila Greco

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Raiandancer Restaurant  
Rolling Hills Country Club  
The Stockyard Public House  
W.B. Mason

### GOLFERS

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Mr. Ken Adamowski  
Mr. Ryan Aylward  
Mr. Karl Bach  
Mr. Tim Barker  
Mr. Steven Bauman  
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Mr. Mark Winslow  
Mr. Jim Wurz  
Mr. Ben Ziskin

## Golf Tournament Results

### Low net category

**1st Place:** Don Devine, Jim Wurz, Steve Dehimer and Mike Wurz—score 54.9;

**2nd Place:** Mike Bucciferro, Mike Fagan, Tim Barker and Barney Wemple—55.9;

**3rd Place:** Scott Waterhouse, Mike Fasano, Tim O'Brien, Jr. and Jon Harvey—57.1.

### Low gross category,

**1st Place:** Tim O'Brien, Sr., Bill Bowler, Jim Kunz and Bob Sherlock—60;

**2nd Place:** Ken Adamowski, Sarah Adamowski, Joe Palmieri and John Wilkins—62

**3rd Place (TIE):** Mike Schebel, Tony Meola, Mark Winslow and Angelo Saccoccio—64; and Paul DiCaprio, David DiCaprio, Mike Frollo and Rich Ruberti—64.

### Men's Long Drive on Hole #1: Randy Risley

**Closest to the Pin on Hole #2:** David Loucks at 6'5.25"

**Women's Long Drive on Hole #4:** Liz Tesiero

**Closest to the Pin on Hole #6:** Bill Bowler 12'11.5"

**Closest to the Pin on Hole #14:** Ron Romano at 1'4"

**Men's Straightest Drive on Hole #18:** John Harvey

**Women's Straightest Drive on Hole #18:** Pat Beck



# Liberty Foundation's 23rd Annual Golf Tournament

Liberty Foundation thanks everyone who supported our 23rd Annual Golf Tournament.

The event was held on Thursday, June 8, at Rolling Hills Country Club. Golfer and sponsor participation helps to support Liberty Foundation and individuals with developmental and physical disabilities who benefit from programs funded by Liberty ARC.

Pictured are some of the volunteers who helped make the day such a success! ■



## Special Olympics Games

It was a busy and successful Spring and Summer for our combined Liberty ARC/Lexington Special Olympics basketball (The Saints) and volleyball (The Gold Diggers) teams.

In May, a regional competition was held on the Shenendehowa School campus in Clifton Park. There, both teams played and qualified for the State Summer Games. The volleyball team brought home the gold, qualifying for top division bracket at the State Games. More than 1700 athletes competed in this year's 2017 Special Olympics New York State Summer Games. They traveled to Siena College from around the state for the June competition. Hosts included Siena College, Hudson Valley Community College, The Sage Colleges, World Class Gymnastics and Spare Time Bowling alley.

This year marked the first time in a decade that Special Olympics-New York was back in the Capital Region for the State Summer Games. The games were hosted by the University at Albany 2005-2007. Both teams had impressive showings at the games with the basketball team winning a bronze medal and the volleyball team coming in fourth in their highly-competitive division. These athletes are an inspiration to us all for their hard work and dedication.

Special cheers for the hard-working coaches! ■



### ■ BASKETBALL

**Team:** Liberty ARC—Jochuamh Paris, Matt Summerfield, Aundaisha Green, Markie Hugo, and Joe Mascelli.

**Lexington**—Ross Carangelo, Joe Colby, Victor Colon, Serina Stanton, Don VanEtten, Mikael Wallace, and Jose Kemp

**Coaches:** Maureen Manginelli, Lynda Thatcher, Tim Summerfield, and Harvey Allen

### ■ VOLLEYBALL

**Team:** Liberty ARC—David Lopez, Kimberly Rickard, Taylor Clendenan, Andrew Smith, Steve MacPhail, Monserrate Matos, Erica Reynolds, Joshua Race, Mark Bentz, Chris Lehman, and Shannane Blankenbaker

**Lexington**—David Boca **Coaches:** Kelly and Bruce Button, Mike and Diane Houghton, Maureen Manginelli, and Lynda Thatcher



# NYS Association of Day Service Providers Recognition Day

In June, the NYS Association of Day Service Providers (NYSADSP) held a direct support and front line supervisor recognition day. This day was aimed at celebrating and recognizing exemplary employees in these staffing areas.

The event was held at Fulton-Montgomery Community College and hosted approximately 63 participants from the Central East and Central West Region, comprising 14 service providers such as Liberty ARC. Participants heard a motivational speaker and enjoyed educational learning activities aimed at bringing peers together. Liberty ARC staff were integral in shaping the day with John Glode and Alison Wallace serving on the NYSADSP committee, Jamie Siwik leading a drumming exercise class and Amy Devendorf leading a paint and chat class.

Two Liberty ARC staff were honored.

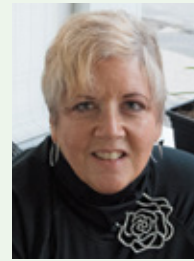
## Outstanding DSP Award— Shauna Hall



Shauna received this recognition for her exceptional supervision of Liberty ARC's outdoor maintenance program. She has demonstrated a calm demeanor, an ability to teach necessary skills, and outstanding mentoring of the individuals she oversees.

Challenged by numerous responsibilities and varied skills, they are committed to their volunteer tasks. Shauna guides, directs, and meets each individual's needs, while fulfilling the group's weekly commitments. ■

## Outstanding Front Line Supervisor Award—Amy Devendorf



Amy was recognized for her ongoing dedication and years of commitment to Liberty ARC's art program. Liberty Through the Arts was Amy's creation and has continued to grow and expand over ten years. Our artists have

won and received accolades because of Amy's guidance and encouragement. The pride and self-confidence of individuals who work with Amy are increasingly evident and result in successes in other areas. Amy is generous with her artistic talents, is supportive, and willing to provide assistance to individuals as well as to fellow staff. ■



## Lock 13 Reopens as Mohawk Valley Welcome Center

A press conference, attended by NYS Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, marked the Grand Re-Opening of Lock 13 as the Mohawk Valley Welcome Center. The renovated Taste NY area currently employs fourteen individuals whom Liberty ARC supports. Their staffing roles range from facilities maintenance, upkeep of five vending machines that feature NYS products, and as ambassadors to visitors—showing them how to use interactive kiosks, distributing tourism/educational brochures, and general information. The area is staffed seven days a week from 7 AM–7 PM.

“The expansion of the Lock 13 Living History Park into a premier Mohawk Valley Welcome Center not only opens the door to an unparalleled tourism experience but also continues to give the individuals at Liberty ARC the opportunity to have meaningful and engaging work,” said Liberty CEO Jennifer Saunders. “It's vital to these individuals to be given the chance to learn, prosper and engage with others in an environment such as the Welcome Center. Liberty ARC is proud to, once again, join with these NYS agencies and regional partners to create new and innovative jobs for those with developmental and physical disabilities.” ■

L to R: **Jennifer Saunders** Liberty ARC CEO, some Welcome Center staff—**Ruben Pichardo**, **Kimberly Zito**, store manager **Michelle Melendez**, **Owen Smith**, **Ed Muscato**—and **Bill Sikora** Liberty ARC Director of Sales and Manufacturing.



## Town Hall Meetings

For the past eight years, Liberty ARC has held Town Hall meetings to inform staff about the state of the agency for the previous calendar year and to present the organization's goals and visions of the coming year. These gatherings featured reporting by program directors and uplifting stories on their personal achievements from some of the individuals we support. This Spring, eight meetings were conducted throughout Montgomery County to accommodate travel distance and respect for staff time. For the second year, a Family Town Hall meeting was held with approximately 30 individuals supported by Liberty ARC staff and family members. ■