

## Volunteerism...the New Superpower!



Superheroes are revered for various, superhuman powers. Liberty has its own life-changing superpower: Our commitment to the communities around us.

A great example of how a strong volunteer commitment can impact the community can be seen in the towns of Fort Plain and Canajoharie and outlaying areas. Our midcounty and upcounty residential and day habilitation programs are dedicated to lending a helping hand and make it a priority to be involved in the community on a daily basis. They are genuinely invested in and care about their neighbors and, as a result, true and trusted partnerships have been developed.

### **◆** Canajoharie Youth Center Carnival

- 8th annual event for the participants of the local youth center
- 70+ children were entertained and had a wonderful time
- The summer vacation event has created a solid partnership with the youth center

### **♦** Trunk-or-Treat

- 2nd annual event held in the parking lot of Liberty's Church Street Day Hab site
- Individuals and staff from upcounty & midcounty day habs and residences decorated their vehicles and offered candy, providing an opportunity for local children to trick-or-treat in a safe and trusted environment
- 300+ attendees are a testament to the high esteem in which Liberty is held (and remarkable for growth in one year's time)

### **◆** Elves' Night Out Holiday Celebration

- Over 200 people were welcomed to Liberty's Mohawk and Church Street sites
- Mohawk Day Hab hosted games and arts & crafts for youngsters
- 66 Church Street transformed into a boutique with vendors for Christmas shopping and a chance to visit with Santa
- More than 25 staff and individuals were on hand to greet visitors

### **◆** Liberty/Soroptomist Pancake Breakfast

- Spearheaded by Fort Plain's 7 Main Street Day Hab
- 300 people had a delicious morning meal consisting of flapjacks, eggs, and other traditional breakfast fare
- A total of \$3,000 was raised with profits split between the Soroptomist Club and Liberty
- Liberty's profits went to support the snack bag program in the Fort Plain School District, a simple way to make a big difference

## **◆** Canajoharie Homecoming Parade

- Mohawk and Church Street Day Habs worked together to create a float
- Liberty's "Frozen-themed" float won First Place!

These examples illustrate how Liberty is connected to and invested in our local communities. Although much hard work went into making these events successful, a great deal of fun and an amazing amount of good cheer resulted from the efforts.

## A Message from the Board President and CEO

Looking Back on 2014; a Year of Change and Opportunity



We are proud to present Liberty's 2014 Annual Report. The stories of the individuals and groups featured throughout this publication show Liberty's mission in action in a way that statistics and numbers alone cannot. Some of the achievements are obviously significant and affect many people while others are very personal and mark perhaps small, but important, steps forward in one person's life. Together these stories highlight life at Liberty and its subsidiaries and reveal the everyday successes that make this organization what it truly is, great.

Some exciting changes took place this past year. There were key leadership changes at Liberty with the appointment of a new CEO and CFO. In addition, NYSARC announced that longtime Executive Director, Mark Brandt, would retire at year end. Steven Kroll, who brings nearly three decades of federal and state policy development and advocacy experience to the organization, was selected as the new Executive Director. We are looking forward to working with Mr. Kroll and the state office in the years ahead.

The opening of Liberty Fresh Market on Route 30 in the 3rd quarter of 2014 created a number of training options for individuals and a vibrant new business in our community. The market is part of Liberty's ongoing effort to offer innovative employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities. Please see the overview of Liberty Fresh Market on Pages 10 & 11 to find out what the market is all about. Better yet, we invite you to stop in to see the market program in action firsthand!

Throughout this publication you will see lists of individuals, businesses, and community partners who have donated to Liberty Foundation or provided grant funding in support of our mission. We are truly grateful for the generosity of our supporters, many of whom have been there

for us year after year. The interest they have shown in Liberty and the people in our programs is wonderful and very much appreciated.

We wish to sincerely thank our Board and advisors for giving their time, knowledge and guidance to Liberty and its subsidiaries throughout the year. We are grateful and honored that so many of them have dedicated themselves, in some cases for decades, to making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

We would like to close by expressing our sincere appreciation to our amazing staff for the care, sensitivity, and respect they show every day as they encourage and support individuals in reaching their goals. Our employees are at the heart of all of Liberty's success—past, present, and future.

Ken Adamowski, Liberty ARC Board President, and Jennifer Saunders, Chief Executive Officer







Mark, right, is interviewing Matt who is answering his questions in sign language

## **Liberty Times,** *An Enterprising Newsletter*

One of the goals of the 2014 Strategic Plan was to improve communication with families of individuals in Liberty's programs.

With that goal in mind, individuals in the academics program sharpened their pencils and started asking program sites to share recent happenings of interest. That's how the Liberty Times newsletter was created. It highlights achievements of the people we support and conveys the latest program information. The first edition was circulated around the holidays and will be updated quarterly. While communication with families is a top priority, students are also benefitting by improving their reading, writing, photography, and interviewing skills.

## Staying in Touch with Liberty

To ensure we stay connected with all of our friends and families, Liberty continues to keep the lines of communication open with our website and Facebook page.

## Visit us at libertyarc.org, where you can...

• Get the latest Liberty news and events • Donate to Liberty Foundation in a quick, convenient, and secure way—and make a difference • Find a comprehensive Family Support Services calendar • Access a real-time Facebook feed (perfect for those who don't have a Facebook account)

## Log on to Facebook and find...



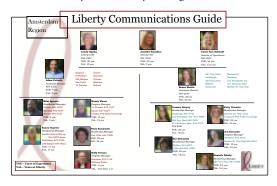
Like us on Facebook

- News about the many volunteer efforts underway at Liberty
- Current job postings
- Event announcements
- Inspirational posts

With these social media tools, Liberty strives to provide timely, accurate, and pertinent information to those who are a part of the Liberty family, as well as the community-at-large.

## **Communication Guide**

In keeping with our 2014 goal of maintaining open communication with families, Liberty sent out the first Liberty Communications Guide in December. These guides are both regional and program oriented and contain photos, locations, and contact information for key staff in each of those areas. Guides will be updated biannually. If you are a family member and would like to receive one, please contact: kathyfos@libertyarc.org



**Day Support** programs provide training in daily living skills as well as offering clinical services, pre-vocational experiences and many opportunities for community involvement and volunteerism. 247 people attend program at 11 day habilitation sites in Amsterdam and in communities in the western part of Montgomery County.

### 2014 Liberty Foundation Donations

Our sincere thanks to the following individuals, families and businesses who contributed to Liberty Foundation, Inc.

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## Service with a Smile

"Hi, how are you doing"?

## This is the warm greeting you'll receive from L Ken Hotaling as he holds the door for you.

It wasn't always that easy for Ken to be so relaxed and outgoing; for many years he needed one-to-one supervision due to anxiety and resulting behavioral issues. Each day over the past year, Ken and his support staff focused on helping him work towards being more independent.

Ken was a bit on edge when he first joined his peers on their weekly meal deliveries for Montgomery County Office for Aging. Gradually, he became comfortable with the group and one staff. Now, Ken has enthusiastically embraced the meals program, is an expert with the routes and has made some friends who now look forward to his visits. Although there are days he still feels a bit anxious, he has learned how to better cope with his



emotions. With a passion for helping others, Ken has become is an extremely social and happy young man.

## Positive Connections Are Making a Difference



What do a community soup kitchen, a museum, and a rehabilitation/nursing home have in common?

They are all places in which dedicated individuals in the day habilitation program enjoy volunteering, while learning valuable life skills. Under the auspices of Liberty Enterprises' Employment Services, the Community Connections Day Hab group created a daily internship program.

Each week, approximately twelve individuals work in each of these settings, refining job skills and learning crucial aspects of being successful on the job. They follow a schedule and embrace good attendance, appropriate dress codes, and safety in the community. Each work setting helps hone specific skill sets. When they go to the St. Luke Church's soup kitchen, the interns focus on food preparation and meal delivery. Their work at the Walter Elwood Museum has opened the door for some new and exciting learning opportunities, such as researching and designing museum displays. During their time with Capstone Center for Rehabilitation & Nursing they interact with residents at the facility and participate in enjoyable activities.

These positive connections within the community are beneficial to the interns as well as the local citizens they are assisting and getting to know. It is a win-win situation.

## Celebrating Workplace Success



## A Shining Star

hird time's the charm," or in Karreene O'Neil's case, every 1 time! Karreene has received supported employment through Liberty's Career & Employment Network (CEN), a program that offers individualized career planning, training, job placement, and on-the-job coaching.

This past year, Karreene was recognized by Price Chopper, her employer since 2011, for her

work in the busy Amsterdam deli. Recently, Karreene received a five-star report through the "secret shopper" program at Price Chopper. The secret shopper acts as a typical store customer, shopping in various departments to experience customer service and rating each employee with whom they have interacted. A five-star report is the highest score and the *third* top report for Karreene! Rightfully, she's extremely proud and her supervisor commented that she wishes she had more employees just like Karreene!

Above: Karreene O'Neil delivers the order to the customer. Top left: Joanna Hinman, Food Service Manager; Karreene; and Tom Coman, Store Manager

## An Emerging Leader

M om, friend, leader...Bridget Bailey is very proud to own each of these titles.

Bridget is employed in Liberty's manufacturing program. When she first started in the subassembly area, she required support and assistance in learning new work tasks as well as improving social skills and self-esteem.

With the guidance and support of her supervisor, Bridget has emerged as a leader. She has assumed the position of leading and assisting fellow assembly workers. Her supervisor depends upon her oversight of daily tasks and checking all finished work for quality control. This responsibility has given Bridget a more positive self-image.

In recognition of her outstanding work progress, Bridget was selected as one of New York State Industries for the Disabled's 2014 William B. Joslin Outstanding Performers. She was presented with a certificate and cash award at the Career & Employment Network Luncheon on 6 October 28, 2014, at Raindancer Restaurant.



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Liberty Enterprises' email notifications keep current and potential customers informed about the newest products for their business or organization.



Visit **libertycleanproducts.com** to sign up for timely email alerts.

Liberty's Employment Services department offers a wide variety of programming. The ultimate goal is for each person to find meaningful work in a community setting by expanding his/her skill level and building confidence. Individuals enrolled in employment programs: Community Connections (40), Life Skills Day Habilitation (24), Pathways to Employment (19), and Supported Employment (198).

Liberty Enterprises is a division within Liberty that employs individuals with disabilities as part of its manufacturing and production team. These individuals receive a competitive wage packaging soaps, hand sanitizer, cleaning products, salad dressing packets, and much more!

# Liberty Enterprises' Products Available at Liberty Fresh Market







## New! 7-in-1 Cleaners

The newest products from the Liberty Clean line are two innovative cleaners: one for glass and one for multi-purpose cleaning.

Both are called a 7-in-1 cleaners because one bottle contains concentrate to constitute seven bottles of cleaner, when mixed with water. What's also unique is that all the mixing is done within the bottle itself.

In addition to being outstanding cleaners, they are completely safe for the user and environment. The best part about these items is that they are produced right at Liberty's Route 5S manufacturing and packaging facility. These top-quality cleaners can be found at Liberty Fresh Market and other natural food stores and area co-ops.

## The Power of Love

All you need is love, love is all you need." These words, sung by the Beatles, are simple in meaning but have a big impact on a person's life.

Mary Richardson experienced the positive power of that emotion when she was welcomed into Liberty's Gilbert Avenue home.

Previously, Mary exhibited dangerous and selfdestructive behaviors both in her residence and at Day Habilitation. After trying many techniques to

help Mary feel comfortable, Liberty staff committed to improving Mary's behaviors. They theorized that moving her to a new home might be advisable. They were correct. Mary's demeanor immediately improved and negative behaviors ended. When asked about their approach, the Gilbert Avenue staff simply answered, "It's because we love her, we just love her."

**Residential Services** offers a variety of community living options and flexible supports, depending on the level of support and supervision needed by each person. 59 homes for 247 individuals are located in communities throughout Montgomery County.





## There is nothing as comforting as home to help make a person feel safe and secure.

This was especially true for Mary Wadsworth. For most of her life, Mary lived happily with her mom and dad. Her parents lovingly nurtured her, but found they could no longer care for her at home. That is when they turned to Liberty for assistance.

Mary came to the Ridge Road, Canajoharie, residence in a wheelchair she'd been using since the previous year, due to medical issues. Mary's support team worked diligently to help her with the transition, not only to adjust to her new surroundings, but to help her gain the strength and motivation to walk again. The team also focused on assisting her to become more independent in dining, increase her verbalization, and to feel contentment with their personal care.

While Mary experienced some homesickness, she has made significant strides in all areas. Her family and staff are dedicated to supporting Mary in achieving her goals and feeling relaxed in her new home.





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> Group ticket purchases are listed with main ticket holder name only

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## **Overcoming Obstacles**

iberty's clinical staff makes every effort to find L the best way to support individuals.

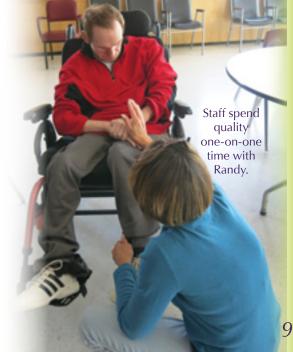
Staff sometimes find that there are obstacles that must be overcome in order to have a significant impact on a person's quality of life. For several years, Randy Sweet struggled with oral consumption of food which eventually escalated into negative behaviors at mealtimes and steady loss of weight. Because he is non-verbal, exhibiting behaviors was Randy's only way of communicating his difficulties.

His family and staff worked together to support Randy in handling the major transition from being able to consume food and drink orally to utilizing a feeding tube. Since March, 2014, Randy's quality of life has steadily improved thanks to the care and support he receives from his family and Liberty's clinical team.

## F or nearly 22 years, Adobi Woods has valued her friends and staff at Liberty very much like family.

Quite naturally, she also wished to know more about her birth family; they hadn't been in touch since she was a young girl. Adobi and her guardian Val Beekman did some research and not only located her family, but made arrangements to visit them! The pair traveled to New York City to meet her mother's side of the family and discovered Adobi's brothers and sisters she hadn't known about. Adobi missed the chance to see her mom, who had passed away, but met other family members and attended her aunt's ordination.

The good times didn't stop there. In November, her New York City family attended her birthday party at Liberty! Adobi is very happy to have these new family connections and looks forward to keeping in close touch and sharing many memories in the future.





A Great Place to Work

Liberty is proud to offer professional growth opportunities to our employees. Staff are encouraged to seek job advancement through development of leadership, communication, project management, and other skills.

Evamarie Mraz's experience is a great example of how an unexpected job opportunity can evolve into just the right fit.

Evamarie joined Liberty in 2013, originally working as relief staff and then joined the Family Support Services' after-school program. She enjoyed her work and was a valued member of the FSS team.

When Liberty Enterprises began developing Liberty Fresh Market, it was understood that they would need people with experience in

the retail sector. As a longtime proprietor of a small shop, Evamarie was encouraged to apply. Evamarie began as assistant store manager, and was selected as store manager soon after the market opened for business. Eva, as her market staff and customers call her, has embraced this new position with great exuberance and passion. She oversees eleven full-time employees and one part-time employee. She sets high expectations for all, but tempers it with a great deal of kindness. Eva and her staff focus on providing unmatched customer service, respectfully greeting all who walk in the door with a great attitude and a smiling face. Eva says, "I treat everyone as though they are a friend in my home and expect my employees to do the same."

## Liberty Applauds Crew Reddick for her Award-Winning Holiday Card



Eva works on the fresh produce display

## Besides working at Liberty Fresh Market, Crew Reddick is creating award-winning art!

At Liberty's art program, *Liberty Through the Arts*, Crew enjoys working in different mediums. Her artwork titled "Holiday Diversity Tree," which blends tissue papers and acrylic paint, won top honors from ANCOR! The national trade organization's 2014 holiday card featured Crew's artwork; Liberty also designed gift sets of cards for sale at the market. Crew was recognized at October's *Liberty Through the Arts Creative Expressions Art Show* where her painting "Reflections" won an Honorable Mention. Liberty Fresh Market features a display and sales gallery for artwork by Crew and other individuals in the art program.



## What's Fresh?

Glass-bottled Milk
Daily-baked Breads
Deli Meats (and Sandwiches)
Veggies and Fruits (when in season)
Much, much more



## **Shop For These Items**

Gluten free
Sugar free • Low sugar
Low MSG
Organic
Non-GMO products

## A Market With a Mission: A Great Place to Shop

The landscape in which Liberty works and supports individuals with developmental disabilities is always changing and evolving. Recent developments in funding environments and service delivery philosophy at the state and federal levels have prompted Liberty to seek creative ways to support people in achieving employment and personal goals. Liberty Fresh Market is one of them.

This innovative market is a time-limited training center for individuals Liberty supports. It aims to give them skills necessary to become confident and competent community employees. The first goal is for clerks to acquire skills and to become more independent in their work tasks. Ultimately, they will transition from the market to other meaningful community employment. Liberty Fresh Market is also committed to offering the community fresh, local, healthy foods and products. The market proudly carries items from over 35 local vendors, as well as a wide variety of bulk items.

## Goals for Employees to Achieve

Follow and understand a work schedule, company policies, and procedures

Weigh and repackage foods from large to small containers and create and affix product labels

Refill Point of Service (POS) Bulk Food Dispensers

Keep entire store clean • Stock shelves and rotate product

Bag product and assist cashier • Assist customers who need help getting bags to car

Assist with Customer Service and Market Research activities

Assist with setting up, servicing, and breaking down special events held at the market





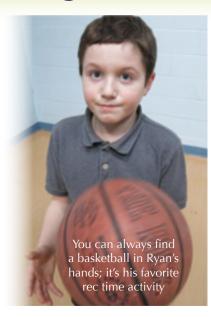
Facebook.com/LibertyFreshMarket libertyfreshmarket.com 4867 State Hwy 30, Amsterdam, NY (518) 212-6758

## **Making Friends**

**D** yan Salisbury is no longer a shy little boy in the corner. Ryan has A friends, can communicate more easily, and, as our FSS staff state, "is a joy in our programs!"

Ryan's path hasn't been an easy one. When he joined Liberty's Family Support Services (FSS) summer recess program this past year, he was timid, unsure about leaving his family, and reluctant to join activities with his peers. Staff notes that he didn't even want to stay with the group. Over time, Ryan became more comfortable with the routine and began looking forward to spending days with his friends.

Next, Ryan entered the FSS after-school program. It was, once again, very intimidating for him. Although there were many familiar faces from summer, Ryan was still very nervous and unsure. By patiently involving Ryan in activities and giving him time to adjust, eventually he started to interact. Ryan is now one of the first children to grab his chair to sit with his friends and discuss his day at school. Ryan's parents have shared how his experiences in these two programs have had such a positive effect. Ryan has started to use full sentences at home and has gained enough confidence to leave his mom to be with his friends!



## Happy to Serve

Family Support Services (FSS) includes Community Habilitation, a program that provides hands-on assistance and personal skill training that encourages individuals to gain independence while living, working, and socializing in their communities. The FSS program also offers after-school, school recess, camping, and recreation programs for children and adults. 139 children and adults and their family are supported.



Since his stint as Santa over the 2014 holiday season, 'jolly' can be added to the list. Dominic's foray into the realm of Santa came about when Liberty's Family Support Services (FSS) recreation program was looking for a volunteer to dress up as the holiday favorite. When asked, Dominic enthusiastically stepped right up. In his Santa persona, he patiently listened as each child sat on his lap relating his or her Christmas wishes. He spent quality time during the social hour, chatting and enjoying holiday fare.

This isn't the first time Dominic has volunteered his time. During a Family Support summer recess program, he formed a bond with a shy youngster and assisted the boy throughout the day. Dominic has also played the role of Santa before, just not in costume. He purchased toys and other items for local kids throughout the year and donated them at holiday time.

Dominic is an altruistic person who is always looking for ways assist others. He receives support from his FSS family with his activities and other facets of life that are meaningful to him.

### **2014 Liberty Foundation Golf Tournament Sponsors**

**Premier Sponsor** SEFCU

**Principal Sponsor** Rose and Kiernan, Inc.

**Major Sponsors** 

BDO Seidman, LLP Focused Wealth Management Bailey, Haskell & LaLonde Harlevsville Simplex Grinnell

#### Clubhouse Sponsors

Scott Adamowski/Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, Inc. Cranesville Block Company, Cushing Stone Company, Inc. M.M. Hayes Company, Inc. Patriot Federal Bank St. Mary's Healthcare WB Mason

#### **Fairway Sponsors**

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#### **Hole/Tee Sponsors**

ADS Business Intelligence Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC Brown Coach Community Health Center Correll Roofing County Waste & Recycling David Wieboldt Architect **Dutchtown Ace Hardware** Fremont Industrial Corporation Mr. Tim Coons Fulton County Electrical Hardies Electric Services Company Inc. Larry & Fran Jordan Lamont Engineers L & M TV and Appliances Mental Health Association in Fulton & Montgomery Counties Palmer Pharmacy Mr. & Mrs. Jay Quatrini Mr. & Mrs. John Rose Ruby & Quiri Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara Dr. Michael & Mrs. Deborah Sheridan The Family of Christopher Sollecito

Attorney Thomas E. Sise

County

Upstate Útilities

United Way of Montgomery

**Patron Sponsors** Mr. & Mrs. Robert Greco

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Mrs. Patricia Beck Mr. Matthew Becker Mr. Paul Boshart

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Mr. Dave Hornidge Mr. Marvin Horowitz Mr. Marty Hughes Mr. Steve Hurtubise Mr. Michael Hutcherson Mrs. Dawn Jacksland Mr. Larry Jordan Mr. Jim Kosakoski Mr. Jerry Krishe Mr. Christopher Lail Mr. Gary Leva Mr. Ron Limoncelli Mr. Michael Maddalone Mr. Jay Marsden Mr. Jim McCarthy Mr. Jack McKeever Mr. Jeremy Meisel Mr. Rick Miller Mr. Billy Moore Mr. Ken Moran Mr. Rick Morev Mr. Bill Morrone Mr. Jim Murphy Mr. Bob Nosik

Mr. Tim O'Brien Mr. Matt Ossenfort Mr. Steve Oughton Mr. Joe Palmieri

Mr. Brennan Parker Mr. Michael Passante Mr. David Pawlowski Ms. Julie Pierce

Mr. Keith Plummer Mr. Robert Purtell Mr. Tom Puszkarczuk

Mr. Chad Quackenbush Mr. Terry Quackenbush Mr. Bob Quick

Mr. Fred Quist Mr. Brian Rafalski Mr. Robert Reidy

Ms. Karen Riley Mr. Ron Romano Mr. John Rose Mr. Andy Rubilotto

Ms. Jennifer Saunders Mr. Andy Sawicki Mr. Ed Sawicki

Mr. Michael Schebel Mr. John Sciuto Mr. Mitch Seid

Mr. Ross Setlow Mr. Frank Shuster Mr. William Sikora

Mr. Ron Smith Ms. Jessica Smrtid Mr. Vic Sperduto Mr. Dan Tabor

Mr. John Vazzy Mr. Jim Wurz Mr. Mike Wurz

Our sincere thanks to all our wonderful staff and community volunteers. It is no exaggeration... we could not do it without them.





## The Bonds of Friendship

Julio Rodriguez began working as a Liberty Direct Support Professional (DSP) in 2002. From the very beginning of his employment, his gentle, engaging ways gained him many friends.

In 2014, Julio joined the transportation department and was assigned the route to Liberty's Hickory Hill home. He was happy to learn this was part of his route because he had formed a special bond with residents Bonnie Blanchard and Richard Trzaskos in his role as a DSP.

A talented musician, between bus runs, Julio can often be found entertaining individuals with his guitar. Bonnie shares Julio's love of music and enjoys hearing him play. As for Richard, Julio says he has quite the sense of humor and is always joking around. Sometimes just looking at each other they will break into laughter, making their daily trips an enjoyable time. The individuals who reside at the Hickory Hill home, as well as staff, are all happy to have Julio as their bus driver and friend.

## A Dream Coming True

Habitat for Humanity's slogan is, "Help build houses and hope." Liberty's Facility Management Department took that to heart when two of the individuals we support, Manny and Melissa Castro, were chosen in 2013 as a "Partner Family."

Their home is the first being built through Habitat for Humanity Montgomery County. Since breaking ground in early 2014, tremendous progress has been made, thanks in large part to Liberty's Facility Management Department.

Facilities staff are skilled in a variety of building and grounds trades; to date eleven staff members have donated more than 450 hours of their personal benefit time to construct the home's foundation, walls, and roof.

When they had first been chosen, Manny said that his father never owned his own home. Before he passed away, it was his dream that all of his children would be able to own their homes. Now, with the generosity, skill and love from Liberty's personnel and awesome friends in the community, his dream for Manny is becoming a reality!



## Committed to Excellence, Safety, and Outreach Education



iberty management recognizes that it is of the Lutmost importance to educate not only our staff, but those in the community who potentially respond in an emergency situation to help the individuals we support.

Group, left: In order to better prepare local emergency organizations for a potential crisis situation at Liberty's campus or at a residence, Liberty hosted a Behavioral Crisis Response Forum. The objective was to share information and develop procedures with emergency responders in Montgomery County. Liberty Safety Manager Heather Vecchio spearheaded the forum. Presenters were Traci Sarabia (Clinical Department), Megan Martino (Psychology Department), and Jennifer Lang (Corporate Compliance). The forum was well attended and received a great deal of positive feedback.





Facility Management department staff participated in two annual refresher training topics: Wheelchair Preventative Maintenance and Confined Space Training. The wheelchair training addressed servicing, troubleshooting, and repairs on all types of equipment used at Liberty. The confined space training, required by OSHA, focused on calibrating air monitoring equipment and knowledge of atmospheric hazards, safety equipment, energy control, and the roles and responsibilities of supervisors, attendants, and entrants.

## Liberty Opens Two New Homes



Liberty was proud to build two new homes in the Town of Amsterdam: Village Lane and Midline. They replace a home with aging infrastructure and each accommodates seven individuals. Residents, family members, and staff had input during the design phase of these projects. The resulting "home sweet home" atmosphere will be enjoyed for years to come.

Wider hallways, sunrooms, individualized bedrooms, and specialized equipment (including a walk-in-tub, wheelchair-accessible showers, and transfer lift) give the residences impressive safety features, combined with homey comforts.

Care and Compassion

The employees of New Dimensions treat a variety of patients ranging in age, nationality, physical, and intellectual abilities. They do everything within their power to ensure that patients receive high-quality care.

Justin Isaac is a 17-year-old young man with autism who recently moved into a Liberty residential home. He hadn't been to the dentist in several years due

to White Coat Syndrome, which causes him extremely high levels of anxiety when he sees a medical professional wearing a white coat. Prior to Justin's first appointment, his staff called on his behalf to explain his sensitivity and brainstorm ideas on how to plan a successful appointment.

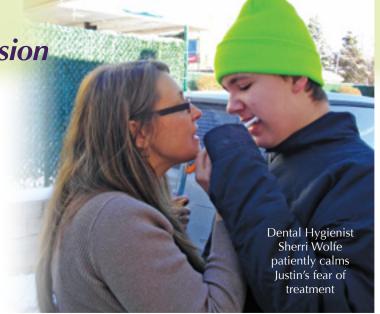
When Justin arrived for his first visit, dental hygienist Sherri Wolfe met him by the back door without her lab coat on. This has seemed to work for him and Justin has now had several successful appointments. Justin chooses to stay outside, or just inside the back door and allows the hygienist, as well as the dentist, to look into his mouth and assist him in brushing his teeth. During each appointment Justin allows Sherri to do a little more than on the previous visit. Justin and Sherri have established a great rapport. At the beginning of each appointment, Justin spends a little time laughing and teasing Sherri, but ultimately lets her assist him in brushing his teeth. Thanks to the caring, responsive approach of New Dimensions clinicians, Justin is gradually overcoming his White Coat Syndrome as well as learning good oral hygiene.

## Bridging a Gap

For a new patient who lacks health insurance, a dental or medical emergency can be a difficult, even frightening, situation. The staff at New Dimensions truly care about patients and are well-qualified to provide assistance.

An IPA (In-Person Assistor)/Navigator comes to the clinic on a weekly basis to provide in-person enrollment for individuals and families needing help to apply for health insurance through an HMO or Medicaid. Cindy Stagliano or Gladys Pena (for Spanish-speaking patients) are available by telephone at other times.

Because the majority of the clinic's patients are low-income, this local service benefits them immensely. Once health insurance is established, individuals and families confidently schedule appointments to improve their health and well-being.





### **Mission Statement:**

A caring professional organization dedicated to the delivery of high-quality health care to patients, with an emphasis on service to people who require special accommodation.

New Dimensions in Health Care is a diagnostic and treatment center providing dental and medical care to patients with disabilities and low-income families. 5,972 patients are served at the Wall Street, Amsterdam, facility.



## Celebrating a Milestone



Choices for Community Living (CCL Delaware) is a not-for-profit subsidiary of Liberty providing residential and day programs to people with developmental disabilities in the state of Delaware's three counties.

36 individuals are supported in 13 homes; 44 individuals are supported in 2 day programs Traditionally, a gift of tin or aluminum representing durability and flexibility is given in celebration of a 10-year anniversary.

A gift symbolizing those traits would be very apt for CCL Delaware! For the past decade, CCL Delaware has consistently provided unmatched, caring support to individuals with developmental disabilities throughout all three counties in the state.

CCL Delaware recently received a prestigious four-year accreditation by The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). This momentous occasion was marked on September 20 with a gala ball for CCL staff and all the individuals they support, along with their families. In addition to celebrating this milestone anniversary, CCL also recognized its tenured employees: four 10-year

employees and eight 5-year employees. While CCL Delaware's success is certainly something to celebrate, looking into the future, these accomplishments will surely continue to multiply, due to the high-quality of caring, compassionate, and dedicated staff. Congratulations, CCL Delaware.



Staff, from left to right: Marsha Jackson, Madeline Ramos, Liza Erazo, and Mauricio Ventura





Priority Care Nurses Registry is a subsidiary of Liberty providing in-home care to seniors in Broward County, Florida. An average of 68 seniors receive in-home care services weekly.

## **Building Lasting Relationships**

The staff at Priority Care, Liberty's Nurses Registry in Plantation, Florida, takes quality care and professionalism to a high level by treating clients like family, while understanding and alleviating the family's fears and concern for the "unknown."

When Liza Erazo and Marsha Jackson RN meet with a new client and family, they impart a sense of comfort and security. Professional and friendly, both Madeline Ramos and Mauricio Ventura have a gift for matching the best caregiver with each person.

These connections strengthen the bond between the registry and the community. Continuing success can be attributed to superior customer relations and quality service.

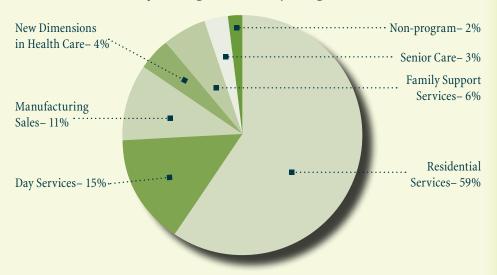
For this reason, client relationships that begin with a few hours of services from Priority Care Nurses Registry often flourish for many years.

## **2014 Fiscal Report:** \$55 Million Annual Budget

## **Source of Revenue**



## **Operating Revenue by Program**



## **2014 Liberty Grants**

Special thanks to these organizations for grant funding for projects benefiting individuals we support and their families.

#### \$10,000-NYSARC, Inc. Trust\* Recreation Grant

Project: Liberty's Children's Recreation program presented the classic play "Rapunzel" on November 1, 2014, at Fulton Montgomery Community College. The play was coordinated by Liberty's Family Support Services (FSS) program in conjunction with the Missoula Children's Theatre. Two public performances were given by the children in the FSS recreation program after a week of preparation under the tutelage of two professional actors associated with the Missoula Children's Theatre.

#### \$8.250-NYSARC. Inc. Trust\*

Funding of operating expenses related to Liberty's Guardianship Program.

(\*Funding for these restricted grants was provided by NYSARC Trusts Remainder Funds)

### \$20,000-KeyBank Foundation

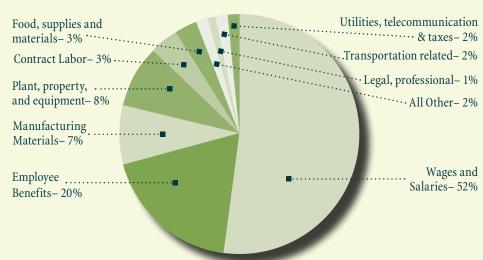
Project: Liberty Fresh Market employment training program for individuals with disabilities. The grant funds are to be provided over a multi-year period.



## KeyBank

Kate Otis, Vice-President & Director, Community Relations at KeyBank, participating in the Liberty Fresh Market ribboncutting ceremony on September 19, 2014.

## **Use of Revenue**



Our Employees: Liberty is the second largest employer in Montgomery County, providing employment to 814 local residents in full-, part-time and relief positions. Our employees are the core of our organization; dedicated people who carry forth the spirit of our mission and fulfill the promise of our values on a daily basis.

## **Liberty Foundation, Inc.** Ensuring the Future of Programs and Services



ur sincere thanks to the businesses and individuals who supported Liberty Foundation's 3rd Annual Appeal.

Our deep appreciation to the DiCaprio family for sharing their story and encouraging others to support Liberty Foundation's 2014 Annual Appeal. At right, Alfred, Mary Doris, and David DiCaprio.





Planned gifts to Liberty Foundation can provide important tax benefits to you as well supporting Liberty's programs now and in the future. If you have included a planned gift in your estate plan, please let us know so we can properly acknowledge your gift.

For more information about how you can make a gift through your estate, please call Liberty's Foundation Office at 518.954.3202.

The following individuals, families, and businesses have shown their support for people with disabilities by making a planned gift to Liberty Foundation, Inc. in the form of a bequest, gift of real estate, or donation of appreciated stock.

Mr. Ken and Mrs. Pauline Adamowski The Estate of Mr. Christian F. Auspelmyer Mr. Edward and Mrs. Genevieve Polinski Mr. Charles and Mrs. Wanda Burling Canajoharie 2000: Mr. David VanderWal; Mr. Stanley Phillips, and

Reverend Kenneth Prol

Mr. Harold & Mrs. Donna Countryman The Estate of Mr. Joseph W. Langley Mr. Frederick and

Mrs. Immaculata Lieber

The Elizabeth O. Paczek Irrevocable Trust The Estate of Mrs. Mary G. Pugliese Route 30 Associates:

Mr. Robert Brundige, Mr. Jeff Christiana, Mr. Albert 'Bud' Heck, and Mr. Doug Volean

Mr. Carl S. Jr. and Mrs. Leila N. Salmon Mr. John P. Woods, Jr.

## A Special Thanks

T n December, 2014, Route 30 Associates donated a 1 76-acre parcel of land to Liberty Foundation, the second of two donated since 2012. Members of Route 30 Associates—Bob Brundige, Jeff Christiana, Bud Heck, and Doug Volean—received a plaque acknowledging their 2012 donation of land at Liberty's Annual Dinner in May, 2012. The plaque is on display at the agency's Day Support Center in Amsterdam.

We are truly grateful to Route 30 Associates for their generosity. These gifts will have a positive impact on the lives of people Liberty supports for many years to come.

## **Donating a Car is Simple**

Tust ask Dorothy Danaher! Dorothy recently left her job as Executive Administrative Assistant at Liberty to join her family in Hawaii. In preparation for the move, Dorothy donated her old car to Liberty, via the Arc's car donation program.

"It was very easy," said Dorothy, "I just followed the directions on the website and within a week or so the vehicle was picked up. I was very happy to get rid of a car that did not run, receive a good tax deduction, and contribute to Liberty Foundation. It was a win-win-win situation."

For more information, go to **libertyarc.org** and click on the car donation link.



### **Annual Appeal 2014**

Founder's Club (\$2.000 - \$4.999)Mr. Frank Capone Mr. Steve Mack

President's Club (\$1,000-\$1,999) Mr. Klaus Beckmann, Beckmann Converting, Inc. Mr. John Glode Ms. Tammy Honeywell-In Memory of Blanche Stafford Mrs. Lisa Klim In Memory of Mary Bouton Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Lieber Mrs. Candace Opalka-In Memory of Bonnie Archinal Brown Mrs. Margaret Rowley Mr. & Mrs. James Rogers\* Ms. Jennifer Saunders Mr. William Sikora Mrs. Joan Silvernail Mr. Dennis Yacobucci \*Includes matching gift from General Electric Foundation

Gold (\$500-\$749) Mrs. Erin Abele Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cinquanti Mr. & Mrs. Gary Cuyler-In Honor of Jennifer and Tommy Cuyler Mr. & Mrs. Larry Jordan Mr. Joseph Mazur Mr. & Mrs. Paul Moore Ms. Karen Mullarkey Mrs. Carrie Ann Schmidt Ms. Christine Ward-In Memory of Ormon & Dorothy Waddle

Sterling (\$250-\$499) Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Adamowski Mr. & Mrs. William Bonner-In Honor of the Staff at Queen Anne Road Mr. & Mrs. Charles Burling-In Memory of Nicholas Filippone and Thomas Thompson Mrs. Suzanne Field-In Memory of Anna Lasher Mr. Gary M. Greco Mrs. Lynn Handy-In Memory of Carol Sager and Tom Jablonski Ms. Diana Mack Mrs. Robin Moller Ms. Patricia Reksc In Honor of Lee Polinski Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wool-In Memory of Claudine Wool Mrs. Deanna Young Silver (\$100-\$249)

Mr. & Mrs. William Bailey Mr. Kevin Bechtel

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Beck Mrs. Irene Bollen Dr. & Mrs. William Bresonis Mr. & Mrs. Armand Canestraro Mrs. Mary Greco Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Cleveland Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gulnick Sr.-Mr. Paul Czech Rev. Lawrence J. Decker Mr. & Mrs. Alfred DiCaprio-In Memory of Michael DiCaprio Mr. & Mrs. Paul DiCaprio Mr. & Mrs. John Gaito Mr. & Mrs. Robert Greco Mr. Sean Hardies, Hardies Electric Services Co., Inc. Mr. & Mrs. Keith Holland Attorney Richard Horigan Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Krutz Mr. Thomas Lowe Mrs. Tracy Mead Mr. & Mrs. James Nicosia Patriot Federal Bank Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Purtell Mrs. Marilyn Quatrini Mrs. Joan Raven Ms. Mary Lou Richards Mr. John Rose Ms. Cathy Unislawski Blue Ribbon (\$1-\$99)

Mrs. Sharon Adamowski

Ms. Seana Andrzejewski

Ms. Mary Jo Argotsinger

Mr. William Agresta

Mrs. Marie Austin

Mr. Richard Baczek

Mrs. Helen A. Bartone Mrs. Rose Bazan Ms. Funice Bethel Mrs. LauraLee Bradt-In Memory of Joel Silvernail Mrs. Kim Brumley Mr. Joseph Bubniak Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bucciferro Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Bull-In Honor of David DiCaprio Mrs. Madeline Calella Ms. Amanda Campione Mr. & Mrs. John Carriola Ms. Dorothy Carter Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Cassetta Ms. Regina Cassetta Mr. Thomas Chico Mr. & Mrs. Jim Clary Ms. Jane Constantine-In Honor of David DiCaprio Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Copeland Ms. Lori Cosentino Mr. & Mrs. Edward R. Czeski Mr. Dennis Dabiere Mrs. Lorraine DeRossi Ms. Rosemary DiBlasi Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Dietrich-In Memory of Jane Morehouse Mrs. Mary Lou Warnick

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Mr. & Mrs. John Gaito Mrs. Linda Gaetano Mrs. Gloria Gardner In Honor of David DiCaprio Mr. & Mrs. Jason Guttenberg Mr. William Hayner Ms. Kathy Hewitt Mrs. Concetta Hinkel Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Hopperstead Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Hutton Mrs. Opal Jania-In Memory of Nicholas Filippone Mr. Bernard A. Jaracz Mr. & Mrs. William Jesenski Ms. Christine Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Eric Kantor Ms. Anne Keiley-In Honor of the DiCaprio Family Mr. Mrs. Frank Klementowski Ms. Kristy Klim-In Memory of David Silka Mr. & Mrs. John Kolodziej Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kosineski Mrs. Elaine Ko-Talmadge Mr. & Mrs. Dana Lizotte Ms. Cindy L. Machold Mr. & Mrs. Al Mancini Ms. Edith Mikenas Mrs. Sandra Mockry-In Memory of Theresa Conti Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Nelli Mr. & Mrs. Ben Neri Mrs. Theresa Nowakowski Mr. Richard Paczek Ms. Beatrice Pasicznyk Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Pawlowski Ms. Linda Phillips Mrs. Sophie Picciocca Mrs. Lillian Pindiak Mr. Carl Pucci Mr. & Mrs. James Raucci Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Reynolds Mrs. Edith Richards Mr. & Mrs. James Rizzo Mr. & Mrs. Jack Rogers Mr. Alva Roice-In Honor of David DiCaprio Mrs. Theresa Scialabba Mr. & Mrs. Grea Seleman Mr. & Mrs. Stefano Simeone-In Honor of David DiCaprio Mr. & Mrs. Francis Slater Mr. & Mrs. Victor Sperduto Mrs. Mary Stachnik Mrs. Emma Terplak Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas Mrs. Anna Waldynski Ms. Susan Wesoloski Ms. Theresa Williams

## Liberty's Directors and Administrative Staff

### **Administrative Staff**

Jennifer Saunders *Chief Executive Officer (as of April, 2014)* Candace Opalka *Chief Operating Officer* Chris Lail *Chief Financial Officer (as of July, 2014)* 

### **Directors**

Erin Abele Regional Director (as of March, 2014)
John Glode Regional Director
Susan Hornbeck Director of Corporate Compliance
Dawn Jacksland Director of Sales & Marketing
Thomas Lowe Director of Business Development
Robin Moller Director of Clinical & Medical Services
Tim O'Brien Director of Information Technology
Margaret Rowley Regional Director
Carrie-Ann Schmidt Regional Director
Bill Sikora Director of Industrial Operations
& Employment Services
Christine Ward Director of Health Center Operations
Barbara Wool Director of Public Relations & Development
Dennis Yacobucci Director of New Dimensions in
Health Care & Facilities Management

These listings reflect 2014 staffing

## **Advisors**

Pauline Adamowski • Dominic Amatangelo Valerie Beekman • Sharon Bellamy • Joe Davey Jeffrey Heiser • Mary Ellen Holland • Sherry Jerome William Karash • Immaculata 'Micki' Lieber Cindy Machold • Indiria McIntosh • Russell Porath Heather Purtell • Joan Silvernail • Maura Stockwell Valerie Tarantelli • Jeanine Winkler • Benjamin Ziskin

> Our sympathies to the family and friends of these individuals who passed in 2014

William Bjelke Ivan Camacho William Chapman Geraldine Day Robert Krahmer Gary Nare Donna Youngs

## —Liberty Board of Directors—



Ken Adamowski

President

Rev. Lisa Vander

Officers:

Rev. Lisa VanderWal *Vice-President* Michael Cinquanti

Secretary

Joel Kaplan *Treasurer* 

■ Directors:

Michael Bucciferro
Carol Cuyler
Paul DiCaprio
David Fariello
Letah Graff

Calvin Jennings Carl J. Pucci Robert Purtell Robert Quick Sally Romano Kelly Swart, Psy.D.

**Directors Emeriti** 

Frances Gargiulo Patricia Sherman

Valerie Zabo

## **Liberty's Mission Statement**

We work together to support people with disabilities and others in need to achieve a quality of life each person values.

## Liberty Foundation, Inc.

**Board of Directors** 

■ Officers:

Patricia Beck President Valerie Zabo Vice-President Joel Kaplan Secretary/Treasurer

■ Directors:

Jack Betz • Wanda Burling Donna Canestraro • Jay Quatrini, Esq.

### New Dimensions in Living, Inc.

■ Officers:

Nancy Collins *President* Kelly Swart, Psy.D. *Vice-President* 

■ Directors:

Robert Purtell • David Scianimanico

## Choices For Community Living (CCL Delaware, Inc.)

Officers:

Carl J. Pucci *President*John Rose *Vice-President*Kevin Kirbey *Secretary/Treasurer* 

■ Directors:

Cor Catena • Jeffrey Finkle • Larry Jordan Robert Quick • Benjamin Ziskin



43 Liberty Drive Amsterdam, NY 12010

518.842.5080

libertyarc.org



A member Chapter of NYSARC



An affiliated agency of The Arc

Our Values

Quality

Teamwork

Integrity

Respect

Resourcefulness

Person-Centered











## 2014 Agency Highlights

- In May, Board President Ken Adamowski announces that Jennifer Saunders is selected to lead the agency as Chief Executive Officer.
- A total of 55 individuals obtain paid employment at local businesses, exceeding the annual goal of 25 by 120%.
- At the Annual Dinner in May, Liberty recognizes Brown Coach with the presentation of the 2014 Community Partner Award, acknowledging their ongoing dedication and employment of individuals Liberty supports.
- Walmart of Amsterdam is selected by the Career and Employment Network as the 2014 Employer of the Year.
- In July, Liberty CEO Jennifer Saunders appoints Chris Lail as Liberty's Chief Financial Officer.
- Liberty joins sister chapters to commemorate NYSARC's 65th anniversary by participating in the Journey Along the Erie Canal bike trail.
- Liberty recognizes 60 tenured employees with a total of 990 years of service.
- At the Annual Dinner, Liberty's 7 Main Street, Ft. Plain day habilitation program receives the 2014 Community Commitment award in recognition of their ongoing volunteer efforts on behalf of the local community.
- In August, friends, colleagues, and family members gather at Liberty's Spoons Café to honor Joel G. Kaplan for his service to the community.
- The 3rd Annual Creative Expressions art show on October 2 is a resounding success, exhibiting artwork from six ARC chapters.
- During 2014, individuals in Liberty programs log 27,839 hours of volunteer community service to individuals and organizations.

## Amsterdam Printing Enclave Celebrates Twenty Years



## In 1994, individuals in Liberty Enterprises' vocational and employment program began working at the Amsterdam Printing facility on Wallins Corners Road.

Working alongside printing company employees, individuals in the Liberty enclave became integral members of the Amsterdam Printing workforce. The number of individuals with disabilities who work there daily has varied over the years from a high of nearly 30 to the present 11. In July, the 20th anniversary of this amazing working relationship was marked with a cake and a company gathering. Congratulations to all the hard-working enclave individuals for their years of service and dedication. Liberty truly commends Amsterdam Printing Company's management and employees for their unwavering commitment to this joint venture. Here's to another 20 years!