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Liberty program individual Breauna Theobald and her father Kent enjoy their time together at a dance recently held at the Arkell Library & Museum to celebrate program individuals and their dedicated families.

## Dance Celebrates Liberty Program, Brings Families Together

**Canajoharie** – Liberty ARC recently hosted a dinner dance to celebrate the importance of family relationships between the individuals supported by the organization and their families. Liberty's Family Support Services department organized the dance which was held at the Arkell Library and Museum. The event was funded through a grant from NYSARC, Inc., awarded to help fund various recreation activities for individuals with disabilities in Montgomery County. NYSARC grants are awarded to member chapters throughout New York State for this purpose.

"We wanted to involve families in this celebration because they play an integral part in assuring the success of their family member in program", said Liberty COO Candy Opalka. "We are fortunate to have received this funding from NYSARC and wanted to use it in a meaningful way."

"The Arkell Museum was the perfect setting, it was something special," said Liberty FSS Director Pete Lawrence. "Everyone had a great time dancing, visiting with each other and really just enjoyed being together. That's what it's all about!" Approximately 75 individuals with disabilities and family members attended.

Liberty's family support services include; respite programs, recreation, weekend get-aways, after school and school recess programs. Some of the FSS programs are funded in their entirety or in part, by Liberty Foundation, Inc.

Founded in 1957, Liberty, the Montgomery County Chapter of NYSARC, is a private, not-forprofit organization offering comprehensive, community-based services, support and programs to individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and their families throughout Montgomery County.

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