



NEWS RELEASE

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Liberty ARC Awarded Walmart Community Grant

AMSTERDAM- Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, has received a \$1,000 grant from the Walmart Community Grant Program. These grants are awarded to various non-profits by local store branches based on community impact and need. Community Grants are aimed at hunger relief, healthy eating and improving quality of life.

Liberty ARC will use these funds to help offset the cost of their "Snack Bag" program currently implemented in the Fort Plain and Canajoharie school districts. The snack bag programs, introduced and run by Liberty ARC, were implemented in the Fort Plain elementary school in 2012 and in the Canajoharie school district in 2015. These bags are filled with healthy choice foods for two breakfasts, two lunches, and one snack and are distributed every Friday to children and families that show a need for food assistance outside of the regular school week. The program relies on contributions and/or donations from numerous community fundraisers hosted by individuals and staff in Liberty ARC upcounty day support programs.

"This critical program provides nutritious meals to students in these school districts during the weekends when they are away from school and may not have access to adequate nutrition," said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders. "This program not only provides food-insecure youth with nourishment but also gives the individuals supported by Liberty ARC the opportunity to give back to their community through their participation in the snack bag program. This grant funding will have a significant impact on the program and will allow our organization to continue helping others in need."

Individuals supported by Liberty ARC assist in purchasing and packaging food included in these snack bags and have been actively involved in the fundraising events that support the program. Some individuals take further action and donate supplies and funds themselves. More than 40 children and families have benefited from this program since 2012.

About Liberty ARC

Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, was founded in 1957 by parents of children with developmental disabilities who wished to establish special education programs in the local community. For 60 years the organization has provided the area with top-quality supports and has grown to include vocational, recreational, residential, day, family support and health-related services to nearly 580 individuals with physical, developmental and other disabilities.

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