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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberty Artist Chosen to Represent Voice! 7 Art Show

The Voice! 7 art show, presented by the ARC of Otsego County opened on Friday, July 15 at the Martin-Mullen Art Gallery located on the State University College of New York at Oneonta. Voice! is a juried art exhibition of work celebrating the creative voices of artists with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities across New York State. This year, the artwork selected to represent the entire show was created by Liberty's very own Anthony Battisti.

Anthony started participating in Liberty's art program, Liberty Through the Arts, in the fall of 2010. Anthony is involved in the Opportunities for People Through Services Program (OPTS) which provides paid work experience for individuals with disabilities in the community. He began to show an interest in painting after seeing how much others enjoyed the hobby and Amy Devendorf, who runs Liberty Through the Arts, picked up on this right away.

"I would ask if he was interested in painting classes and at first he said no, but eventually told me he liked to draw at home," Devendorf said, "I offered to start a one-on-one class with Anthony because I could sense he did not care for a large group of people. I noticed early on that he was very meticulous to detail when he was drawing."

Anthony's attention to detail paid off. In the spring of 2011, Anthony and four other artists submitted their pieces to the 7th annual Voice! art show. All five works of art were selected to be exhibited at the show and Anthony's painting entitled, "Friendship," was selected to represent the entire art exhibit. Anthony's painting was used for all of the show's promotional efforts including postcards, banners and was even created into a 7-foot banner on display at the show with a biography of Anthony included.

The grand opening of the exhibit was on Friday, July 15th with a dinner and awards presentation. Anthony was recognized for his painting at the dinner. All five artists who represented the Liberty Through the Arts at the show received a certificate for their participation and were acknowledged in the show's program.

Anthony continues to pursue his painting classes every week with Devendorf at the new Day Habilitation site in Canajoharie at 91 West Main Street.

Founded in 1957 by local parents and family members of people with disabilities, Liberty is a not-for-profit, member chapter of NYSARC, Inc. a statewide organization serving over 60,000 individuals throughout New York. Liberty is the largest provider of services to people with developmental disabilities in Montgomery County, offering day, residential, vocational, family support and health-related programs to over 650 individuals with disabilities and other persons with special needs in the community.

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Caption: Liberty's Anthony Battisti posing next to the 7-foot banner on display at the Voice! 7 art show in Oneonta, NY. Anthony's painting entitled, "Friendship" was chosen to represent the entire art show which opened on Friday, July 15 through July 30, 2011.