



PRESS RELEASE

Date: July 16, 2020

Contact: Gilli Hachey

Phone: 518-954-3222

Email: hacheyg@libertyarc.org

Liberty ARC Receives Quality of Life Grant from Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation for Accessible Equipment

AMSTERDAM- Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, is proud to announce that it has been awarded \$9,309 as part of the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation National Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) 2019 2nd Cycle Direct Effect grants program. Fifty-four grants totaling \$963,677 were awarded. The Quality of Life Grants Program supports nonprofit organizations that empower individuals living with paralysis. Since the Quality of Life Grants Program's inception, more than 3,150 grants totaling over \$28 million have been awarded. Funding for these new cycles of grants was made possible through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living (ACL grant #90PRRC0002-02-01).

Direct Effect Grants fund organizations up to \$25,000 to support a wide range of projects and activities that will clearly impact individuals living with paralysis and their families. The projects and programs funded with these grants are for short-to-mid-term impact within local communities.

"We are thrilled to award Quality of Life grants to organizations directly serving people living with paralysis to enhance their independence and engagement in their communities," said Mark Bogosian, Director, Quality of Life Grants Program, Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. "These projects will have a tremendous impact on those who benefit from their services. The Reeve Foundation is incredibly proud of this program and thrilled to have these 54 organizations join our ever-growing cohort of grantees."

Liberty ARC will use the grant to enhance the accessibility of the organization's playground, as well as expand off-site inclusive opportunities for individuals living with paralysis. The grant funds will be used to purchase and install one wheelchair accessible swing platform with a pull chain for self-propelling, one wheelchair accessible picnic table, accessible mats for improved mobility on the existing play area, and two beach accessible wheelchairs.

"Oftentimes, individuals with disabilities, especially those living with paralysis, do not have the same opportunities as their peers to experience the outdoors in ways that foster inclusivity or promote health

and wellness. Over the past three years, we have made several improvements to our outdoor recreation area to encourage social and physical development, to promote an active and healthy lifestyle, and to inspire inclusion for the Liberty ARC Community,” said Jennifer Saunders, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty ARC. “We are honored to have been awarded a grant, by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, to enhance the accessibility of our outdoor space, and provide new experiences for those living with paralysis. Funding from The Reeve Foundation furthers our mission to support people with disabilities to achieve a quality of life each person values.”

About Reeve Foundation

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by advancing innovative research and improving quality of life for individuals and families impacted by paralysis. We meet all 20 of the Better Business Bureau’s standards for charity accountability and hold the BBB’s Charity Seal. The Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) is a program of the Reeve Foundation and is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living (cooperative agreement number 90PRRC0002). For more information, please visit our website at www.ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-539-7309.

About Liberty ARC

Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The ARC New York, is a not-for-profit agency that provides top-quality supports and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are proud of our six decades of bringing these innovative and valuable programs to those most vulnerable in our community. While staying committed to our framework the agency has grown our employment, residential, day supports, family support and health-related programming throughout the years. Our mission- *Together we support people with disabilities to achieve a quality of life each person values* - together with our *Values* make up the foundation on which our culture is framed. We are extremely proud to be a pioneering agency, which coupled with a dynamic workforce and our person-centered mission makes Liberty ARC a stand-out in our field.

###