



PRESS RELEASE

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Liberty ARC Awarded NYSID Matching Grant

AMSTERDAM - Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, was recently awarded a New York State Industries for the Disabled, Inc. (NYSID) matching grant, in the amount of \$2,026.

The NYSID grant will be used to match funding from Liberty Foundation, a private foundation, which underwrites crucial, unfunded programs for Liberty ARC, to procure two self-levelling pallet positioners for the agency's manufacturing division, Liberty Enterprises. The equipment will enhance ergonomics and safety for all employees working on high volume, heavy weight, repetitive, and physically demanding commodity items, such as New York State firewood, calcium chloride, and file boxes. Furthermore, the equipment will be used to train individuals with disabilities on equipment that is common and transferrable to the private industry. The self-leveling pallet positioners minimize bending, reaching, and lift load by bringing the level and location of the load closer to the employee.

Liberty Enterprises employs 37 people with disabilities, who have the potential to be assigned to jobs that utilize the pallet positioners, in order to meet product fulfillment demands. Currently, six employees with disabilities will be directly impacted by this equipment. Liberty Enterprises expects the implementation of this equipment will reduce the strenuous, repetitive physical requirements, decrease time spent in material movement, and increase productivity by at least 20%.

"Liberty Enterprises continuously seeks opportunities to maximize workplace safety, enhance operational efficiencies, and provide our workforce with resources to develop valuable job skills as well as maintain meaningful employment," says Jennifer Saunders, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty ARC. "The NYSID Matching Grant Program is a wonderful opportunity for NYSID members, and we are delighted that our application was approved to receive funding in 2020. We expect the pallet positioners will have an immediate impact upon implementation. We have worked alongside NYSID, for many years, to promote employment and independence for individuals with disabilities. We extend our sincere gratitude to NYSID for the recent grant award."

About NYSID Matching Grants

NYSID offers a Matching Grant Program to its Member Agencies to help improve wages and/or enhance productivity of individuals working on NYSID products. NYSID Matching Grants can also be used to develop new products that will increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Member Agencies may apply for up to \$25,000 in grant money, to be matched on a one-for-one cash basis. In NYSID'S 2020 fiscal year, grants totaling \$88,000 were issued to six different Member Agencies to improve work lives for individuals with disabilities.

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.

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