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Editor's note: Photos Attached

Liberty ARC Launches "Liberty Through the Arts" Online Store

Webstore through Silver Graphics Helps Liberty Artists Reach a Nationwide Audience

AMSTERDAM – Liberty ARC announced that *Liberty Through the Arts* program has launched an online store to sell the work of Liberty's artists on mugs, t-shirts, hats, and other household and gift items. The store, hosted by Silver Graphics.com, features the work of more than a dozen artists with disabilities who express themselves creatively through Liberty ARC's art program.

"This website is a wonderful way to experience the originality and creativity of Liberty's artists," said Jennifer Saunders, CEO of Liberty ARC. "Artists with disabilities have a unique perspective and their artwork expresses how they see and interact with the world around them. We are very happy to give these award-winning artists a platform to share their talents and put their artwork on beautiful gifts."

The online store can be found by following the instructions at: www.libertyarc.org/liberty-arts/

Liberty ARC's art program has flourished for the past twelve years, helping Montgomery County residents with disabilities create stunning pieces of art with a variety of mediums and techniques. By licensing a selection of artwork through Silver Graphics, people can now experience the work of their favorite artist, or the collaborative work of many artists through the Liberty Arts program. A portion of the proceeds from the sales will go to the individual artist, or in the case of collaborative work, to Liberty ARC to help fund programs like *Liberty Through the Arts*.

"The website is a great way to support these talented artists, who are so proud of their work," said Amy Devendorf, who conducts Liberty ARC's art program. "Artwork has the power to change lives, and they are very excited to share their creativity with the world." Much of the art is colorful, vibrant, and speaks to the positive outlook that the artists bring to the program.

For the website Liberty ARC partnered with Silver Graphics, a company known for doing online art fundraisers for schools. Through the portal hosted by Silver Graphics people can select their favorite

artworks, and then order them on a number of different items. The items are then shipped to the purchaser's home.

For the artists, this website is a way to bring their passion to a wide audience.

"I always like making crafts with my friends, but when I started in the *Liberty Through the Arts* program, six years ago, I started to paint and really liked it," said Ken Shumaker, an artist and participant in the Liberty program. "I'm proud of my nature paintings, like birds, zoo animals, and sea creatures." Ken's paintings, like many others, can be found on the Silver Graphics page.

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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