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ARC

A chapter of *The Arc*
New York

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Liberty ARC Programs, Services to Benefit Lives of Individuals with Disabilities

\$30,000 in Funds Awarded to Liberty ARC Project Enhancements

Amsterdam – Liberty Foundation is excited to announce \$30,000 has been awarded to fund several Liberty ARC projects through its “Ground Level Grants” program. This is the third year of the competitive internal grant program that exclusively benefits Liberty ARC services. Ground Level Grants is sponsored by Liberty Foundation, funding programs and projects that enhance the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who receive supports through Liberty ARC.

“We are thrilled with the success of our third year of Ground Level Grants,” said Jennifer Saunders, CEO of Liberty ARC. “We are excited to see these grant funds already in use for health and safety measures, educational purposes, and for recreational activities. Ground Level Grants allows Liberty ARC to continue our mission to enhance the quality of life for the people we support.”

Projects to receive funding in 2021 include the installation of several AED defibrillators in residential sites for immediate use during cardiac events, installation of no-touch thermometers in three of Liberty ARC’s day habilitation program sites to keep individuals and staff safe during health screenings, and fishing equipment for day habilitation participants to partake in a fun and safe outdoor activity.

“Funding through Ground Level Grants is crucial to supporting individuals at Liberty ARC with medically frail conditions,” said Anthony Bianchine, Safety Manager at Liberty ARC. “Their safety is our top priority. These devices are easy to use, offer a much more effective treatment for someone in cardiac arrest than CPR alone, and their presence positively impacts quality of life for our residents. The chances of survival significantly increase with AED use. They are critical to have on-site in our homes where ambulance response can often take 15-20 minutes, especially in the more rural parts of our county.”

Other items to be purchased with funds through Ground Level Grants are laptops to allow participants in day habilitation programming to take part in virtual activities with their friends and peers, and several

online courses, including guitar lessons to fulfill the dreams of an individual that wishes to learn how to play the guitar.

“The need for technology grew during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are so grateful to have received funding through Ground Level Grants for the purchase of new laptops to stay connect with each other,” said Liberty ARC Assistant Director Jennifer Bernardo. “The technology allows participants in Liberty ARC’s day habilitation programs to remain active through virtual activities, including cooking, art sessions, dance parties, science lessons, and chorus. The laptops also allows our participants to maintain their friendships they have made in program, while they may not be able to see each other in person.”

Liberty Enterprises, Liberty ARC’s manufacturing division, was awarded funding to purchase a case sealer. This piece of equipment automatically tapes a formed case in preparation for packing and tapes it again once packed. This equipment was sought as a tool to increase productivity.

“I was pleased to learn our team was awarded the grant funds from the Liberty Foundation to purchase the automatic case sealer,” said Brett Bellinger, Assistant Director of Industrial Operations at Liberty ARC. “I expect this equipment will increase our efficiency with packaging. Implementing work efficiencies are particularly important in our mission to provide employment opportunities for people with most significant disabilities. I’m excited to work with the team to integrate the automatic case sealer across multiple product lines.”

“Liberty Foundation continuously seeks opportunities to fund vital programming in order to have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities supported by Liberty ARC,” said Donna Canestraro, President of Liberty Foundation Board of Directors. “The Liberty Foundation Board of Directors and I are thrilled to be able to award funds for a variety of wonderful projects that will allow the people we support to live their best lives.”

About Liberty Foundation

The Liberty Foundation was started in 1993 to benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities served by Liberty ARC. The Liberty Foundation funds programs, services, and items that are not otherwise funded through state or federal government programs to enhance the lives of Liberty ARC participants. Throughout the years, the opportunities and services provided by Liberty ARC and supported by the Liberty Foundation has helped people with disabilities in Montgomery County live their best lives. The foundation provides resources that allows Liberty ARC to deliver an outstanding level of service and program excellence, so that each person can achieve a quality of life they value.

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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