



**LIBERTY
ARC**

A chapter of *The Arc*
New York

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberty ARC Employee Samantha Anthony Receives National Award

Honoring her work in supporting independence for people with disabilities

Amsterdam – Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, is very proud to announce that employee Samantha Anthony has been named the 2023 New York State Direct Support Professional (DSP) of the Year by The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR).

ANCOR is a national organization focused on federal policy and shared solutions to strengthen the ability of community-based providers to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Direct Support Professional Recognition Award is given to those who personify the values of ANCOR's National Advocacy Campaign, which works to ensure a well-trained and sustainable direct support workforce. Nominees are judged on the work they've done to build social networks, substantive community participation, and advocating for the people they serve.

Samantha has worked as a DSP in Liberty ARC's Family Support Services (FSS) program for the past three years. Samantha was nominated by a fellow employee and was highlighted as a staff that is "deserving of this award due to her dedication, leadership and advocacy, and her constantly going above and beyond for the people she supports."

"I can't believe it," Samantha said. "As it has set in that I am receiving this recognition, I feel so grateful and honored to receive such a wonderful award. I am flooded with so many emotions as my love for helping others is being recognized. I remember as a young girl is when I first found joy in helping others."

"Liberty ARC is extremely proud of Samantha being recognized by ANCOR as their 2023 NYS DSP," said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders. "Samantha is an outstanding employee who has truly made a lasting and significant impact in the lives of the people she supports. Creating meaningful relationships with the people she supports is at the core of her work. Every day, she takes a person-centered approach with

the families she is working with, always taking the time to understand the goals and desires of the people she supports. Samantha exemplifies the importance of a direct support professional.”

Samantha has supported a woman so she could build the skills necessary to have more independence to make her own medical appointments and to oversee all aspects of her medications. Samantha has also used her connections at a local food bank to find meaningful volunteer work for people she supports, and worked with a man and his elderly mother so they can continue to live in their family home together.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) provide a rich mosaic of daily support services for many Americans with disabilities. DSPs play an important role in the lives of the people they assist. They are there to listen, encourage, and support people to lead full and independent lives. Since 2007, ANCOR has honored exceptional Direct Support Professionals with the Direct Support Professional Recognition Award for exemplary work in furthering community inclusion and full participation for the many Americans living with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities.

“For 17 years now, ANCOR has presented the Direct Support Professional of the Year Awards to recognize the outstanding professionals who power community inclusion for people with [intellectual and developmental disabilities],” said Barbara Merrill, CEO for ANCOR. “The outstanding DSPs being honored this year deliver life-enhancing supports amid no shortage of significant challenges, not the least of which is a long-standing crisis in the ability of providers to recruit and retain qualified DSPs. Through it all, these professionals demonstrate an unwavering commitment to community inclusion and to the people they support. That’s why we feel honored to celebrate Samantha and more than to other DSPs who exemplify excellence in our field.”

“I love being a DSP because it is very rewarding to go to work every day and work with the people I support through FSS,” Samantha said. “I am always looking for different ways to empower people. In Family Support we get to work with families and build meaningful relationships with not just the people we support, but their loved ones as well. We get to also see the people we support in different settings, including in their home and their community. I love the way the people I support make me laugh and smile through our adventures, and in turn do the same for them.”

Families have told FSS employees “how proud they are of their child’s accomplishments and how it was Samantha’s support that helped them get there.”

On April 26, ANCOR will present Samantha with the Direct Support Professional of the Year Award at their annual conference in Chicago, IL.

About ANCOR

For more than 50 years, the American Network of Community Options and Resources ([ancor.org](http://www.ancor.org)) has been a leading advocate for the critical role service providers play in enriching the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). As a national nonprofit trade association, ANCOR

represents 2,000+ organizations employing more than a half-million professionals who together serve more than a million individuals with I/DD. Our mission is to advance the ability of our members to support people with I/DD to fully participate in their communities.

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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