



News Release: May 9, 2024

Contact Person: Winnie Blackwood

Telephone: 518-954-3203; Mobile: 518-396-6178

Email: blackwoodw@libertyarc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberty ARC Unification Official, Bringing Together Services in Schenectady and Montgomery Counties

Schenectady - The Montgomery and Schenectady Chapters of The Arc New York have officially unified under the name of Liberty ARC.

“We are so pleased to announce that Liberty ARC is now a unified agency, covering both Montgomery and Schenectady Counties, and providing excellent person-centered services to people with disabilities in our communities,” said Jennifer Saunders, CEO of Liberty ARC.

The agency now provides services to over 720 people with disabilities and employs over 1,100 full and part-time staff members.

For the past nine months, the agencies in both counties have been working hard on the unification, making sure that all of the details are covered. As sister chapters of the Arc New York, the unification helps strengthen programs and services by working together to benefit the people we support. Chapters of The Arc New York have been pursuing opportunities to unify in recent years, and the time was right for Montgomery and Schenectady to look at the benefits of working as one agency.

“We’re leveraging the experience and expertise of our staff members to provide the very best for the people in our programs today and in the decades ahead,” Saunders said. “We know that the heart of this unification is a mutual respect for people with disabilities and a desire to support each person’s hopes, dreams, and ambitions so that everyone can live a quality of life that each person values.”

Plans for unification were first announced last summer, and the agency worked with families and people supported to answer questions and ensure a seamless transition. Services to the people we support transitioned smoothly through the unification, and the agency will continue to maintain a footprint in both counties. The unification became effective May 1, 2024.

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 in Schenectady and Montgomery Counties. 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.