



2025

Annual Appeal

Meet the Velascos!



Dear friends of Liberty ARC,

Ever since Joseph was small, I wanted to fill his life with people who understood him, cared for him, and supported him to achieve his true potential. People who would look beyond the surface and see what I always saw: a curious, kind, diligent, and hard-working young man. Someone who, like all of us, is looking for connection and to be understood. It's what every parent wants for their child.

When you meet somebody who understands your child, it's like striking gold. **And we found that at Liberty ARC.**



By supporting Liberty Foundation's 2025 Annual Appeal, you can ensure that Liberty ARC continues to have a positive impact on people with disabilities and their families.

From the first time that Joseph started services with the agency in Schenectady at age 3, I knew this was someplace special. The people we met were so compassionate and understanding –they went out of their way to make Joe feel involved and welcomed. One woman, Melissa, who worked with him many years ago in the after-school program had a daughter that was in Joseph's fifth grade class in Scotia. The daughter was a peer buddy to Joseph in class, and when she came to our house for a birthday party I could see the consideration and caring in this girl with the way she interacted with Joseph. I knew she learned it from her mom, and it spoke to what good-hearted people there are at Liberty ARC.

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It was a great experience for Joseph to attend an afterschool program with his peers, and for us as a family to know he was in good hands with Liberty ARC. I love that the agency had that bridge that connected Joseph and the community. **We didn't have to go to Albany to get services. It's right here in our hometown.**





Today, Joseph has graduated high school and is thriving. He's in the second year of Liberty's Careers for Me program – a pre-vocational job exploration group. With this group, Joseph is learning about all different types of jobs, touring radio stations, police and fire stations, car dealerships, manufacturing facilities, and even visiting the state Capitol. He's building his social skills and focusing on his areas of interest. Best of all, he's with staff and peers who truly understand him and are working with him to bring out his full potential.

Donors like you ensure people with disabilities and their families can turn to Liberty ARC for years to come!

Joseph and I are so grateful that we came to Liberty ARC. And since the merger with Schenectady ARC last year, there have been even more opportunities for him to grow and have new experiences. We're looking ahead at what might come next for Joseph with excitement and confidence as he works towards his employment goals.

Since 1993, Liberty Foundation has raised funds in support of people with disabilities served by Liberty ARC. As a private non-profit, your gifts go towards the needs and experiences that are not covered by government programs. **From transportation to trips, sports equipment, outings, and items, Liberty Foundation is there to say "yes" to those things that matter.**

Your generosity to Liberty Foundation pays for experiences like summer camp, upgrades in residential homes, trips to the zoo and aquarium, fishing equipment, bicycles, music lessons, art classes, and so much more. **Funding from Liberty Foundation allows people to go on adventures, make memories, take new classes, and remain active in our community.** These things mean so much to the people with disabilities in Liberty's programs, and so much more to people who love them.

I see the difference that Liberty ARC has made, not just for Joseph, but for his peers and friends. Every day they work hard, learn, laugh, and support one another. They have found staff and friends who support them to be their best, and their future is bright. Thanks to donors like you, hundreds of people with disabilities supported by Liberty ARC have opportunities to reach their dreams and potential – because all of us, including YOU, have helped behind the scenes!

Kathleen

Kathleen Velasco
Scotia, NY

P.S. - A gift to Liberty Foundation is a gift for the quality of life every person deserves! On behalf of Joseph and all who benefit from your donation, THANK YOU!

"I'd like to get a job at HannaFord or the library... my favorite month [with Careers for Me] was when we visited the police station and the fire station.... I have good Friends at Liberty, Ethan, Autumn, and Maryann Brown."

-Joseph Velasco

Annual Appeal GIFTS HAVE FUNDED

- Transportation for people to maintain employment in the community
- Trips and visits to museums, attractions, zoos, and recreation sites
- High-quality homes and furnishings
- Art & Music lessons
- Bicycles, gazebos, accessible swing sets, and games

