



**LIBERTY
ARC**

A chapter of *The Arc*
New York

News Release: February 26, 2024
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberty ARC Employee Appointed to Director of Operations

AMSTERDAM – Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, is pleased to announce the appointment and promotion of Ashley Walton as their new Director of Operations.

In this role, Ashley will oversee Liberty ARC's Residential Services in the mid and up county areas of Montgomery County, including Fonda, Fultonville, Canajoharie, Fort Plain, and Palatine Bridge. Ashley will ensure all regulatory requirements are met, implement the agency's Strategic plan, report fiscal performance, provide oversight to billing procedures, support teams to be collaborative and effective, and focus on person-centered supports.

Ashley comes into her new position with over 14 years of experience in the Intellectual/Developmental disability (I/DD) field. She began working at Liberty ARC in 2015 as the Associate Director of Operations in the mid and up county regions. Most recently, Ashley served as the Assistant Director of Employment Services for three years and as Recruitment Supervisor from 2018 to 2020.

"It has been a goal of mine since I began my career at Liberty ARC to take my leadership role to the next level by becoming a Director," Ashley said. "Having an opportunity to achieve that milestone by leading the mid and up county area is especially meaningful because it's where I started my career at Liberty ARC. I have established relationships with people supported, families, managers, and staff in the area, and am looking forward to returning in a new capacity. I have been so fortunate in my time with Liberty ARC to work with the Residential, Day Program, Human Resources and Employment Services teams. These opportunities have given me a broad scope of knowledge of the agency as a whole which I am confident will be beneficial in returning to Residential services."

"We are excited about the energy and support Ashley will provide to the homes in the up and mid county areas of Montgomery County," said Candace Opalka, Chief Operating Officer of Liberty ARC. "Ashley has been a key leader at Liberty ARC for nine years and has worked in various capacities. Ashley is known for her positive and energetic approach, the support to her teams and her organization and focus on quality. We look forward to working with Ashley in this new capacity."

Ashley also received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the State University of New York at Oneonta in 2003 and minored in Educational Psychology.

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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