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DATE

**ADVOCACY AND RESOURCE CENTER, CLINTON COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
ARC NEW YORK / NYSARC INC., AWARDED \$75,568 IN GRANTS FROM
NYSARC TRUST SERVICES**

*To Support Guardianship and Recreational Opportunities for People with
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Clinton County, New York.*

Plattsburgh, New York (February 20, 2024) –Clinton County Chapter of The Arc New York/ NYSARC, Inc. dba Advocacy and Resource Center was awarded \$75,568 in grants from the Trustee Management Board of NYSARC Trust Services to support their Guardianship program and provide Recreational opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities receiving services.

NYSARC Trust Services administers supplemental needs trusts (SNT) and pooled trusts that can make dramatic improvements to the lives of people with disabilities by enabling individuals to maintain financial eligibility for Medicaid and other means-tested government benefit programs. For 2023, NYSARC Trust Services is proud to fulfill its commitment to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by awarding a total of \$2,697,980 to The Arc New York Chapters statewide.

In 2023, Clinton County Chapter, NYSARC Inc. received \$64,000 to provide Guardianship services for people supported who would not otherwise have a legal Guardian or advocate. Supported by Chapter staff and community volunteers, the Clinton County Chapter NYSARC, Inc. Guardianship program provided supports and services to 13 people as primary Guardian and one person as standby Guardian.

NYSARC Trust Services awarded Clinton County Chapter NYSARC, Inc. \$11,568 to support new recreational opportunities to enrich the lives of more than 421 people receiving services. The Clinton County Chapter, NYSARC Inc. used the Recreation Grant funds to support people with disabilities to live integrated lives in their community, including hiring professional singer and song writer, River Jack, to creatively inspire the people we support to write and sing their own music for several months over the summer. Funds also provided the people we support with opportunities to welcome local community members into their home for a magical experience with their

Wizard of Oz themed trick or treat house. Funds also created opportunities for one supported individual to attend Camp Kiwanis over the summer so that they could participate in activities like fishing, swimming, arts, crafts, and other exciting and immersive expeditionary activities with other people from around New York State.

The Clinton County Chapter, NYSARC Inc. also had the wonderful opportunity to open its revamped Site Based Day Habilitation Services Center, now known as “ExploreAbility”. The revitalization of this program allows the people we support to have freedom and autonomy over the activities and events they want to participate in. The Recreation Grant funds have allowed many of the people we support to access these new and exciting opportunities through the purchase of tools and items such as a tv display to allow easier access and awareness of daily activities that are offered and to view changes to the activity schedule in live time. This also allows the people we support more opportunities to suggest activities and provide feedback to the agency’s new Recreation Coordinator. Funds have also been used to purchase items such as paints, oil pastels, scratch paper, clay, tactile sensory boxes, and silent disco headphones to provide the people we support with an immersive, enriching, and colorful experience each day they come to “ExploreAbility”. Funds have also now made possible for the people we support to integrate more into their local community parks with the purchase of picnic baskets and picnic gear to receive more opportunities for outdoor experiences.

About the Advocacy and Resource Center

Celebrating its 70th Anniversary, the Advocacy and Resource Center is the Clinton County Chapter of The Arc New York (NYSARC, Inc.). The Agency started in 1954 as an organization of parents who wanted better lives for their children with developmental disabilities. Over the years, the Advocacy and Resource Center has matured from a small, parent-run group to an agency staffed by professionals and operated as a business that is accountable to numerous stakeholders. Currently, over 700 people and their families benefit from the wide variety of services, such as vocational programs, community integration, therapeutic intervention, day habilitation and residential options. The Advocacy and Resource Center focuses on assisting the intellectually and developmentally-disabled to actively participate in home and community life through personal skills development, employment, social activities and volunteerism. The Advocacy and Resource Center currently operates 30 sites in Clinton County and employs over 700 people, making it one of the largest employers in the region. To learn more about the Clinton County Chapter of The Arc New York / NYSARC Inc. *d.b.a.* the Advocacy and Resource Center please visit us online at www.cviarc.org.

About NYSARC Trust Services

NYSARC Trust Services has administered supplemental needs trusts since 1972, helping thousands of people with disabilities protect their eligibility for government benefits and improve their quality of life. Our trust programs give people with disabilities the opportunity to maintain comfort and independence in the community while providing peace of mind to their family and loved ones.

NYSARC Trust Services provides administration of pooled supplemental needs trusts to help families plan for the future of a loved one with a disability, preserve income and assets for Medicaid planning purposes and long-term care needs, and protect unexpected windfalls of money. NYSARC also administers Medicare Set-Aside (MSA) accounts for people who use a pooled trust to protect settlement proceeds. For more information, please call (518) 439-8323 or visit us online www.nysarctrustservices.org.