

## For Immediate Release

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### **The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation Awards Employment Assistance Grant to The Arc New London County**

Norwich, CT- The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation awarded \$38,300 to The Arc New London County's Employment Transition Center to expand its lawn and landscaping microbusiness and training component for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

This component is one of four successful microbusiness that The Arc NLC has developed to provide people with I/DD the opportunity to receive on-the-job training in a number of skilled trades; employees then transition into positions with area businesses and organizations. Through the generosity of the Lord Foundation, the Lawn and Landscape component will be able to purchase a second truck and trailer, thus allowing the component to expand its crew of employee trainees and its client base, with the eventual goal of it being a self-supporting component. The business has already proven to be extremely popular in the community with both individual and corporate clients, including the Norwich Fish and Game Club and the Gemma Moran United Way/Labor Food Center in New London. The supervised crew is trained in all aspects of landscape maintenance including mowing, pruning, mulching, spring and fall cleanup, and plant care.

Kathleen Stauffer, CEO of The Arc New London County, praised the Foundation's commitment to people with I/DD in Southeastern Connecticut. "We can't thank The Lord Foundation enough for recognizing the importance of this employment training opportunity for people whose lives will be dramatically changed for the better by it. The Foundation worked with us to determine the best way to help expand this training component, and then made sure we received the appropriate support. Without their generosity and understanding of the need for good equipment in order to succeed, we would not be able to implement this critical training program."

The Arc New London County is a 63-year-old local nonprofit agency that **provides individualized supports, services and advocacy to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to help facilitate their full participation and inclusion in the communities of Southeastern Connecticut.**

For more information about this grant or the Employment Transition Center's Lawn and Landscape microbusiness training program, please contact Penny Newbury at 860.889.4435 x 103 or [pnewbury@thearcnlc.org](mailto:pnewbury@thearcnlc.org). For general information, please contact Bambi Poppick at 860.889.4435 x116 or [bpoppick@thearcnlc.org](mailto:bpoppick@thearcnlc.org).

**Please Note:** "The Arc" is not an acronym; please refer to us as The Arc NLC, not "The ARC" and not "ARC". *Thank you.*