

For Immediate Release

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December 21, 2018

Dime Bank Grant Assists The Arc New London County's Agriculture Micro-Enterprise

The Dime Bank Foundation has awarded The Arc New London County \$1,150 to support its existing Farm Stand on Rt. 117 in Ledyard and the expansion of its Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA). The agriculture micro-enterprise, which also includes an aquaponics facility, provides people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) opportunities to gain valuable employment skills in their chosen field: agriculture, horticulture and customer service. The Dime Bank award allowed the program to secure a commercial mulch and drip line layer, which will countless hours of labor and insure that all crops receive adequate water and weed control. Ricky Wezner is the Arc NLC's acting Community Enterprise Director. "Knowing how to use this machine is an extremely valuable skill for our participants to learn as they seek competitive employment in the future. It's our hope that with this improvement, and with our planned CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) expansion, our Farm Stand micro-enterprise will become self-sustaining in very short order."

For more information about The Arc NLC's Farm Stand and its other programs, please contact Denise Tift at (860) 889-4435 x 116 or dtift@thearcnlc.org