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**For Immediate Release**

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**Savings Institute Foundation Awards \$3,000 to The Arc Eastern Connecticut**

NORWICH—The Savings Institute Foundation has awarded \$3,000 in grant funds to The Arc Eastern Connecticut's Community Life & Advocacy program to support its Empowerment/Enrichment component. CL&A serves over 165 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities each year and is the only program of its kind in the region. The Empowerment/Enrichment component offers self-advocacy/support groups, civic engagement activities including a Volunteer Corps, workshops on presentation skills for employment and professional settings, and transition programming from school to adult/community life.

Recently, the Boards of Directors of The Arc Quinebaug Valley and The Arc New London County announced their decision to merge into The Arc Eastern Connecticut, which will augment and strengthen service provision for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout all eastern Connecticut.

Kathleen Stauffer, CEO of The Arc New London County, will become CEO of The Arc Eastern Connecticut. "We cannot thank The Savings Institute Foundation enough for their continued support of Community Life & Advocacy's vital programming," said Stauffer. "This foundation has made a huge difference in countless lives throughout northeastern and southeastern Connecticut, and we're extremely lucky to have such a strong partner in our region."

For more information on Community Life & Advocacy or any of The Arc Eastern Connecticut's programs, please contact Denise Tift at (860) 889-4435, ext. 116.