

For Immediate Release

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Local Community Supports Neighborhood Patio at The Arc New London County

Funding makes project possible in Norwich - Sachem Street and citizens nearby to benefit

The Arc New London County this month reached its goal to raise \$2,500 to build a community patio, thanks to generous donations from local foundations and organizations. Combined funding from Eastern Federal Savings Bank Foundation, the Knights of Columbus #12705, Chelsea Groton Bank Foundation, and the Mystic Rotary turned a dream project into reality.

"The Board and members of Management of the Eastern Federal Bank Foundation are proud to be a part of this project," said Christi Hallstrom of Eastern Federal Savings Bank, "and our commitment to supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities in our community is one of many reasons The Arc was chosen to receive our grant."

With volunteers from neighboring Law Firm Lucas & Wickless and other local businesses, patio construction will begin in Summer or early Fall. Once completed, the patio will be open to the surrounding businesses and neighbors to encourage a sense of community and partnership. "The purpose of this project is to create a safe outdoor patio space in a Norwich neighborhood so all might interact in a meaningful way," said The Arc's Board of Directors' President John Fournier.

The project is part of the Community Integration Program, which focuses on facilitating every individual's right to full participation in community life. Complete with picnic tables and a swing, The Arc patio will allow the community to stop by and eat lunch or just take a break during the day. CIP participants will also enjoy full use of the patio. The project reinforces The Arc's conviction that meaningful inclusion involves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities participating with their neighbors in all aspects of community life.

"I have been a Knight for 5 years and I have seen how organizations like The Arc make such a huge difference in people's lives," said Daniel Service, Grand Knight Council #12705. "It makes me proud to be able to help now and in the future."

“When communities come together around a neighborhood project, we all benefit,” added Kathleen Stauffer, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc New London County. “An outdoor patio will not only allow The Arc’s participants to enjoy a beautiful outdoor space, but it also provides a venue to host community events and to serve our neighbors and our neighborhood.”



Kathleen Stauffer, CEO of The Arc New London County, receives the donation check from members of the Knights of Columbus #12705 on May 14th, 2012

The Arc New London County is a person-centered, full-service provider offering supports ranging from employment and community integration to residential and in-home supports throughout Southeastern Connecticut. Founded in 1952 by families seeking greater opportunity for their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, The Arc New London County has grown steadily, increasing annual revenues by more than 50% in the last year alone.

To learn how you can support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities visit:
www.thearcnlc.org.

NOTE: The Arc New London County is New London County's agency of choice for many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Located at 125 Sachem Street in Norwich, Connecticut, The Arc was established in 1952 by parents of children with intellectual disabilities to serve the citizens of New London County. Board of Directors: John Fournier, President; Enrico DeMatto, Vice President; Linda Rhodes, Secretary; Emily Fournier, Treasurer; Members: Dennis Starling, Client Representative, Shannon Aiello, Dawn DeCristofaro, Mary Ann Duchene, Alan Messier, Wendy Mis and Alice Munyan. Immediate Past President: Diane Aubin.