



**For Immediate Release**

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**Local Knights Raise Money to Support the Dreams of People with Disabilities**

*Knight of Columbus Council #34 Taftville, Connecticut donates \$772 to The Arc New London County*

The Knights of Columbus Council #34 has supported The Arc New London County for many years with a Tootsie Roll Drive. This year the Council's efforts exceeded all expectations, with efforts raising nearly twice as much as last year.

"Everything we raise comes from the community and goes back to the community," Knights of Columbus Financial Secretary Council #34 Tim Allain says. "Our Tootsie Roll Drive is just one way we raise money for local community charities. Funds from The Tootsie Roll Drive are specifically dedicated to support agencies that work with people with disabilities."

"We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus," says Kathleen Stauffer, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc New London County, "and we appreciate the way the Knights have championed the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to pursue dreams and aspirations. These funds will be allocated to our Community Life and Advocacy Program, which facilitates Special Olympics and critical new programs currently being built, such as support groups for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse."

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Roman Catholic fraternal organization. Founded in New Haven, Connecticut, their motto: *In service to one. In service to all*, highlights their efforts to overcome the hardships of poverty, unemployment and persecution through service to youth, family, Church and community. In the 2010 fraternal year, the Order gave over \$154 million directly to charity, and performed over 70 million hours of voluntary service.



Pictured delivering the check to The Arc are, left to right: John Fournier (The Arc's Board President), Kathleen Stauffer, and Knights: Norbert Cormier (Past Grand Knight), Michael Smith, Lou Riccio, Michael Boucher, Raymond Parkhurst, Tim Allain (Financial Secretary for The Knights of Columbus #34).

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. Its current operating budget is \$9.5 million.

To learn more about how you can support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities visit: [www.thearcnlc.org](http://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: Shannon Aiello, Dawn DeCristofaro, Mary Ann Duchene, Roberta Hublard, Alan Messier, Wendy Mis and Alice Munyan. Immediate Past President: Diane Aubin.