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Leadership Change at The Arc of New London County

NORWICH, CT – Diane Aubin, President of the Board of Directors for The Arc of New London County, announced today the appointment of Kathleen Stauffer as the organization's new Executive Director. Stauffer will begin her new duties on June 15th. She will be replacing Arc veteran Tom Sullivan, who announced late last year that he planned to retire after seven years of serving New London County and a 42-year career of advocating on behalf of people with intellectual and related disabilities. In April, The Arc named its new Employment Transition Center located at Sacred Heart Parish in Groton after Sullivan acknowledging the insightfulness, dedication and integrity that marked his leadership.



Founded by parents in 1952 to provide educational opportunities at that time unavailable to their children through the public schools, The Arc is a grass roots non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. In the ensuing years, both the organization and its mission have grown to include advocacy, job training, community placement, respite care and more.

"We are deeply grateful to Tom for his compassionate service and commitment," Aubin said. "Tom has worked tirelessly to grow the organization, mentor the staff and establish it as the agency of choice for many people in the region with intellectual and related developmental disabilities." Sullivan came to The Arc in April 2002 after working in Tennessee for three years as the Commissioner of Mental Retardation Services. Prior to working in Tennessee, Sullivan spent most of his career in a number of leadership positions in the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation (now the Department of Developmental Services) including Regional Director of the Northeastern and Eastern Regions and Superintendent of Seaside Regional Center.

"We're sorry to say goodbye to Tom," Aubin added, "but we're excited to welcome Kathleen. Her respect for all people as well as her background in executive management and media will help us keep Arc on the positive track Tom established while opening new doors, particularly in terms of public education regarding disability." Stauffer began her career as a journalist and was named a publisher at Bayard Inc. in 2003. In 2005 she was named president and publisher of Bayard's U.S. magazine division here in New London, which includes Catholic Digest – a publication noted for celebrating human triumph over adversity. She brings to The Arc experience in strategic planning, coaching and achieving customer satisfaction. Stauffer also helped establish the 360 program, which encourages young people of color to pursue journalism careers, at the University in St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

NOTE: The Arc of New London County is New London County's agency of choice for many people with intellectual and related 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: Diane Aubin, President; Enrico DeMatto, Vice President; Catherine

Steel, Secretary; John Fournier, Treasurer; Jessica Clark, Client Representative; Members: Karen DiSaia, Deborah Gregoire, Diane Harrington, Joanne Kerr, Alan Messier, Tom Reynolds, Linda Rhodes, Anthony Walstra. Immediate Past President: Shannon Aiello.