

The Arc/Morris Honors Whippany Resident

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Keith Cortright of Whippany was honored recently by The Arc/Morris Chapter with their 2019 Professional of the Year award. Shown presenting the award with Cortright is Kathleen Ingargiola, a member of the agency's Board of Directors.

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Morristown, NJ – The beautiful Frelinghuysen Arboretum was the site of The Arc/Morris Chapter's Annual Meeting and Awards & Volunteer Recognition event recently. Over 120 guests were on hand to recognize outstanding service to people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities.

Keith Cortright, of Whippany, was recognized by the organization with its 2019 Professional of the Year Award. Serving as the Principal of the Rockaway Meadow School in the Parsippany Troy-Hills district. During the presentation of his award, Kathleen Ingargiola, a member of the Arc board quoted Parsippany Superintendent, Dr. Barbara Sargent. She noted, "Keith Cortright is simply an outstanding school leader, a caring father, and a consistent cheerleader for students with special needs. We need more educators like him."

Katherine Cascioli of Towaco, was re-elected to a second term as President of the Board of Directors of the \$16 million agency, which operates an extensive service system throughout Morris County. Tom Horn of Long Valley was re-elected as First Vice-President. Others assuming officer positions include Walter Bender also of Long Valley, who will serve as Second Vice-President, Larry McEntee of Mt. Olive, who will serve as Secretary and Phil Sheehy of Randolph, who will serve as Treasurer. Jim Gallagher of Rockaway and Barry Levine of Denville were both re-elected to the Board.

The event honored ten individuals and organizations for their work in support of the non-profit organization, whose mission is the care, support and advancement of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Award winners included Ricky Bullion with the Bill Sackter Citizenship Award, Keith Cortright with the Professional of the Year Award and the Drs. Susan Arnold and Aaron Manella receiving Health Care Professional of the Year Awards. Kids to Kids, Inc. was recognized with the agency's Distinguished Community Service Award, while Chris Luongo received the Best Friend Award. Brianne McBreen and Richard Eva were both recognized with Educator of the Year Awards and Louis Grassi was given the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award. Morris County Surrogate John Pecoraro was recognized with The Arc/Morris Chapter's highest honor for lifetime achievement, the Distinguished Service Award.

Volunteers and volunteer groups were also acknowledged for their contribution to the agency. They included local councils of both the Knights of Columbus and the Masons, as well as other social and civic organizations. Local foundations and a number of area churches and schools were also acknowledged for their work with the non-profit agency. Individual volunteers were also thanked for the many hours of time contributed to the organization.

The not-for-profit agency has been serving people with special needs and their families for over 60 years. Services include residential and day programs for adults; therapeutic recreation for all ages; and support and respite for families.

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