

Arc/Morris honors Hanover Township mayor, two others

6 hrs ago



Hanover Township Mayor Ronald Francioli was presented with The Arc/Morris Chapter Distinguished Service Award by Arc/Morris President Katherine Casciolion on Wednesday, May 23. Francioli, a resident of Cedar Knolls, was recognized for his lifetime of service and advocacy for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

HANOVER TWP. – The Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township was the site of The Arc/Morris Chapter’s Annual Meeting and Awards & Volunteer Recognition event.

More than 120 guests were on hand to recognize outstanding service to people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities.

The event honored three individuals with strong ties to Hanover Township. Dr. Mark Solomon, whose practice is in Cedar Knolls, received the organization’s 2018 Health Care Professional of the Year Award for his tireless commitment to ensuring the best possible health care for his patients – including those with developmental disabilities. Additionally, Rolando Menendez, a resident of one of The Arc/Morris group homes, was the recipient of the Bill Sackter Citizenship Award. Menendez was recognized for overcoming great adversity to become a self-sufficient, contributing member of the community.

But the highlight of the evening was recognition of Ronald Francioli, longtime member of the Township Committee and Mayor of Hanover Township. In recognizing Francioli's contribution to the organization, President Katherine Cascioli noted, "There is no doubt that Ron has been the driving force behind a community that not only hosts our five homes, but our Hanover Center in Whippany and our Morris County Adaptive Recreational Program."

In presenting the agency's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, Cascioli went on to note that Hanover Township has lent its support to Employment Horizons, the Allegro School, the Children's Center for Therapy & Learning and the Rose House. She stated that, "Under Ron's leadership, Hanover is clearly one of the most exemplary municipalities in terms of its work with people with developmental disabilities and the many agencies that serve them."

Others recognized at the event were Terri Day with the Professional of the Year Award, the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA with the Distinguished Community Service Award and Robert Griffin with the Best Friend Award. Jan Arthur was recognized with the Teacher of the Year Award, Green Vision Inc. received the Employer of the Year Award, and Kathy Kurek was given the 2018 Volunteer of the Year 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.

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 new officer positions include Walter Bender of Long Valley, who will serve as second vice-president, Larry McEntee of Mount Olive, who will serve as secretary and Phil Sheehy of Randolph, who will serve as treasurer.

Peter Babits of Clifton, Mark DeLoto of Morristown and Irene Hansen of Dover were all elected to the board.

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

For more information call 973-326-9750, ext. 211 or visit www.arcmorris.org.