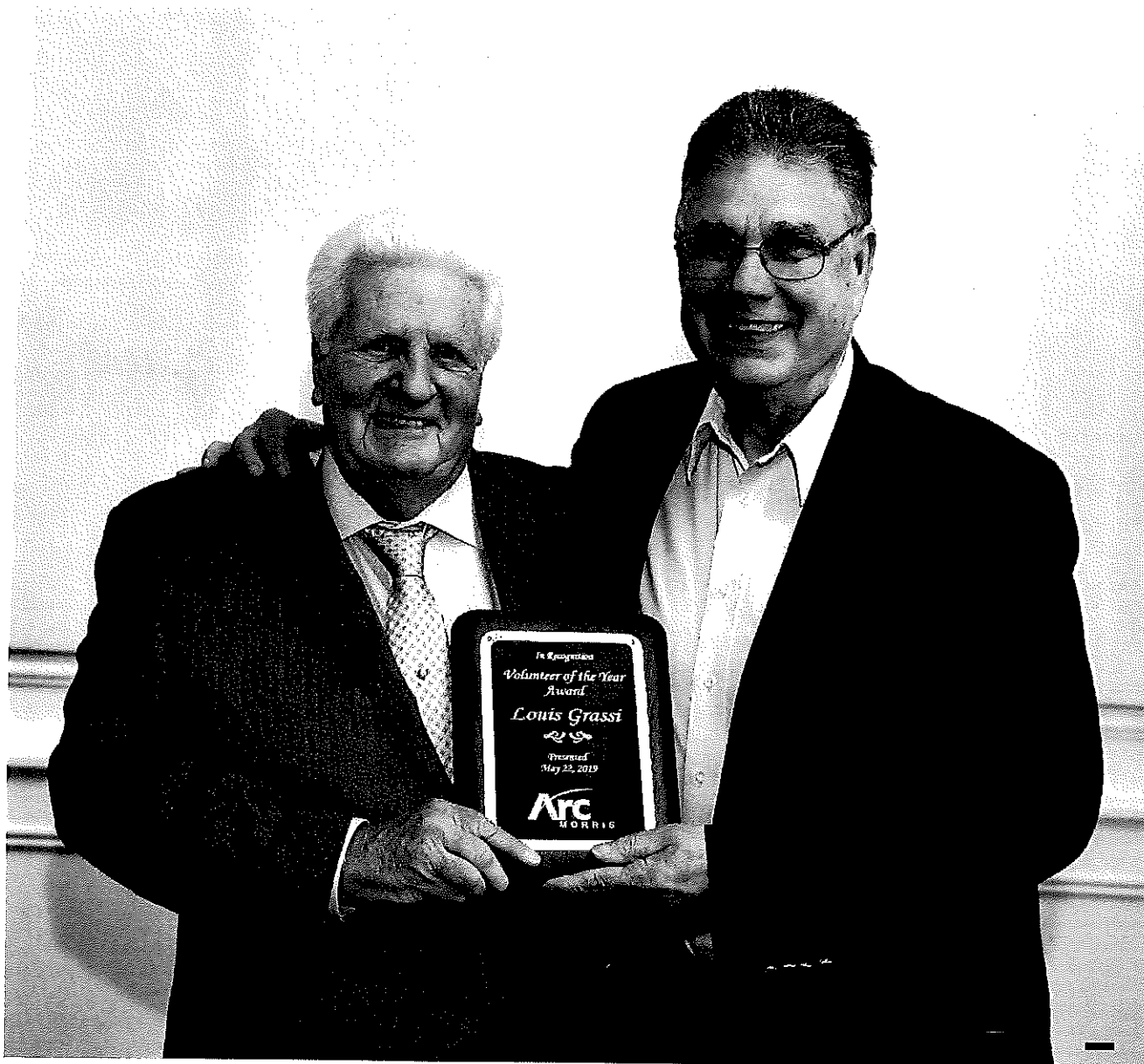


## Flanders volunteer honored by Arc/Morris Chapter

4 hrs ago



Lou Grassi, left, of Flanders, received the Volunteer of the Year Award from The Arc/Morris Chapter recently. A long-time volunteer in the agency's bowling program, he is receiving the award from Walter Bender, a member of the board of directors. For more information, call (973) 326-9750 extension 211 or visit [www.arcmorris.org](http://www.arcmorris.org).

**MOUNT OLIVE TWP.** – A Flanders man was honored at the volunteer of the year at the Arc/Morris Chapter's annual meeting and awards and volunteer recognition at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township.

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

Lou Grassi of Flanders was named volunteer of the year. He has served for more than 20 years as a volunteer in the agency's Morris County Adaptive Recreational Program (McARP). Board member Walter Bender said that Grassi first came to the Arc bowling program to watch his neighbor participate, but he soon realized how exhausted so many parents were after helping their child, particularly those using wheel chairs. Since then, Grassi has been assisting up to four wheelchair bowlers each week participate in the program.

"And for the parents, Lou is a one man respite program, giving them a chance to relax and enjoy watching their kids and just being with one another for a few minutes," Bender said in a statement.

### ***Multiple Honors***

The event also honored nine other 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 Morris County Surrogate John Pecoraro was recognized with The Arc/Morris Chapter's highest honor, 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.

Katherine Cascioli of Montville 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. Other officers include Walter Bender also 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. Jim Gallagher of Rockaway and Barry Levine of Denville were both re-elected to the board.

The 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.