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CONTRIBUTED

Arc/Morris Recognition

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Volunteer Excellence – Chester resident Kathy Kurek was recognized recently as the 2018 Volunteer of the Year for The Arc/Morris Chapter. Larry McEntee of Mount Olive is shown presenting the award to Kurek, who has contributed her time and talents sharing her therapy dogs with consumers at the agency's Flanders Center. The Arc/Morris is committed to the care, support and advancement of people with developmental disabilities and their families. For more information visit www.arcmorris.org or call 973.326.9750.

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

Among those honored was Kathy Kurek of Chester, a devoted volunteer at the agency's Flanders Adult Day Program. In presenting the award, Larry McEntee of Mount Olive, a member of the board of directors, noted, "For five years now, Abby, Iggy and Hercules – therapy dogs trained and certified by St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center, have been providing pet therapy. It is quite a sight to see these dogs interact with the consumers – the reactions of joy can be seen in the faces of even our most involved individuals. It is truly a sight to behold.



The event honored eight 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 Rolando Menendez with the Bill Sackter Citizenship Award, Terri Day with the Professional of the Year Award and the Dr. Mark Solomon with the Health Care Professional of the Year Award. The Lakeland Hills Family YMCA was recognized with the agency's Distinguished Community Service Award, while Robert Griffin received the Best Friend Award. Jan Arthur was recognized with the Teacher of the Year Award and Green Vision Inc. received the Employer of the Year Award. Ron Francioli 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.

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 Mt. 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 over 60 years. Services include residential and day programs for adults; therapeutic recreation for all ages; and support and respite for families.

For more information please call 973.326.9750 x211 or visit www.arcmorris.org.

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