



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COARC AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS HUDSON RIVER BANK & TRUST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RECEIVES COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Mellenville, New York (July 9, 2008) – Sixteen Columbia County students received scholarships and arts grants totaling \$5,100 from COARC in June, and many attended the awards presentation at COARC's Annual Membership Meeting held at Space 360 on Warren Street in Hudson on June 16th. Hudson River Bank & Trust Community Foundation was honored at the event for its support of COARC's mission to expand abilities, one person at a time, so individuals experiencing disabilities can achieve their personal goals.

Anne Connor, Chairperson of the COARC Board of Directors Education Committee, presented Mikki Kay with the Mary Markowitz Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 for undergraduate college-level study leading to career work with the disabled. This scholarship is funded through bequests of Ruth and Esther Haun and also Gertrude DeBoer in memory of COARC employee Mary Markowitz. Mikki is a COARC employee who attends Hudson Valley Community College, pursuing a human services degree for a career as a service coordinator or a social worker.

Ms. Connor also awarded two Kathelyn Caswell Memorial Scholarships, each in the amount of \$750, to Kyle Mabb and Sarah Palleschi as graduating high school students who will study undergraduate college-level programs relevant to work with the disabled. These scholarships are funded through a bequest of Ruth and Esther Haun and Gertrude DeBoer in memory of Kathelyn Caswell, charter member of the COARC Board of Directors and a Special Education teacher in the Hudson City School District. Kyle graduated from Hudson High School and will attend Columbia-Greene Community College in the fall to pursue a course of study leading to a career counseling juveniles with behavior disorders. Sarah is a graduating senior from Chatham High School who is entering SUNY New Paltz to pursue a biology/pre-med course of study leading to a career as a pediatric neurologist working with the special needs population.

Joanne DelRossi, COARC Executive Secretary, presented COARC Employee-Sponsored (A.C.E.S.) Determination Scholarships of \$500 each to Matthew Pottenburgh and Michael Rose, Jr. Funded through voluntary contributions by COARC employees, these scholarships were originated by Ms. DelRossi. Matthew is a Chatham High School graduate who will study construction technology at Hudson Valley Community College, pursuing a career in the construction industry as a carpenter. Michael graduated from Chatham High School and he will study in health sciences at SUNY Cobleskill. Bessie Travis, a Germantown High School graduate who will attend Columbia-Greene Community College to study psychology, was also selected as the third 2008 recipient of this scholarship.

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Yule Pieters, COARC's Director of Children's Services, presented certificates to some of the ten children who received COARC Summer Arts Grants in the amount of \$110 to fund summer art, music, or dance lessons. Nick Cooper of New Lebanon High School will study art with Donna Brooks, Brian Doherty from Taconic Hills Middle School will take music lessons from Delana Thomsen and Michael Dolan of John L. Edwards Elementary School will attend Stageworks' Summerstage 2008 Program. Amara Engel from Westmere Elementary School will take piano lessons with Kevin Jacobs, Andrew Gelles from Hudson Middle School will study piano with Cathy Morris and Brock Hathaway, a student at Taconic Hills, will take music lessons from Britney Meltz. Frederick (Fritz) Herrmann is a student at the New Lebanon Jr./Sr. High School who plans study saxophone with Scott Thompson, Michael A. Lonigro from John L. Edwards Elementary School will take guitar lessons with Peter Einhorn, Anthony Whiteman of Taconic Hills will take art lessons with Britney Meltz and Annie Whiteman from Taconic Hills Middle School will study music with Britney Meltz.

Alex Schneider, COARC's Director of Development and Community Services, publicly recognized Hudson River Bank & Trust Co. Foundation with COARC's Community Excellence Award, the annual award presented to an organization or individual that has helped fulfill COARC's mission and vision. Sidney Richter, former COARC board member for 25 years and a member of COARC's Guardianship Committee, accepted the award on behalf of Hudson River Bank & Trust Co. Foundation, whose grants funded new chairs for employment programs at COARC's Mellenville Training Center and also supported a new outdoor pavilion at COARC's Camp Mahican, a free summer day camp for children who experience disabilities.

COARC is a Columbia County not-for-profit organization whose mission is expanding abilities, one person at a time, so individuals experiencing disabilities can achieve their personal goals. COARC provides an array of services and programs that benefit more than 600 individuals and it employs more than 400 area residents. Established in 1965, COARC is the Columbia County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. It is primarily supported through state and federal funding, and also by individual and corporate members and other foundations. Information about employment, program services, membership and donation opportunities at COARC is available at www.COARC.org or 518-672-4451.

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