



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMPLOYEE CLIMBS COARC CAREER LADDER

Mellenville, New York (February 5, 2009) COARC management awarded Deborah dePeyster a bonus check for meeting the requirements of COARC's new Career Ladder workforce development program. Deborah is a direct support professional who works as a Weekend Overnight Staff Aide at COARC's Greenport Residence to provide hands-on support for individuals who are experiencing disabilities.

COARC's Career Ladder program offers opportunities for job advancement and increased income through independent education and training, and it helps professionalize the field of direct support professionals. COARC initiated the Career Ladder for its direct support staff and frontline supervisors who are funded through the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) after receiving a grant of \$64,970 from OMRDD for Quality Improvement Demonstration Programs last July.

In the fall, New York State Senator Stephen M. Saland, 41st Senate District, secured a grant of \$26,000 to fund computers and network equipment for COARC's multi-media library, providing improved access for Career Ladder participants to professional literature and on-line continuing education certification through the College of Direct Support.

"COARC has been providing services to children and adults with disabilities for over 40 years," stated Senator Saland. "This grant will assist them to continue that mission."

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 COARC employment, program services, donation opportunities and membership is available at www.COARC.org or 518-672-4451.

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