



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOLINARO VISITS COARC HOME IN GERMANTOWN

Mellenville, New York (March 6, 2009) March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, when individuals who are experiencing disabilities and the people who advocate on their behalf are recognized for their contributions to the community.

COARC began its celebration early with a dinner party for Assemblyman Marc Molinaro at the COARC Germantown residence on February 19th. John Coderre, Melinda Hamblet, Michael Kipp, Patricia McKenna, Joyce Riegel, Betty Ann Walker and Luke Whitbeck were hosts, along with staffers James-Richard Ackert, Donna Repetur, Kimberly Fitzpatrick, Brooke Neeld and Eugene Rodriguez. COARC Executive Director Ken Stall and Board Member Lenore Whitbeck joined the party around the large dining room table, where casserole, salads and chocolate cherry trifle were the featured menu.

“It was my pleasure to have dinner with the residents and staff at the COARC home in Germantown,” said Marc Molinaro. “As a state and community, we need to ensure that all our residents have an opportunity to achieve their potential and live with dignity. I learned a lot from my visit and will remain in contact with my new friends.”

COARC Residential Program Manager James-Richard Ackert stated, “The residents were excited to receive the Assemblyman into their home. It seemed as if he was an old friend. They requested Assemblyman Molinaro to return again soon.”

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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