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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Pat Knuth retires as Executive Director of The Arc Otsego after 35 years

Oneonta, NY (April 30, 2021) After 35 years of dedicated service to individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD), Patricia Knuth will retire from The Arc Otsego. Pat started her career with The Arc Otsego in November of 1986. She was the first Residential Director for the agency, opening the Jefferson Avenue home within two months of her hire.

After opening two more homes and three supportive apartments within four years, Pat was promoted to Director of Program Services, which transitioned into the position of Assistant Executive Director. In 2015, Pat was promoted to Executive Director. Under her leadership, The Arc Otsego made many positive changes within the community, including expansion of residential, day and employment opportunities to those with I/DD.

While Pat is known for her advocacy, dedication, and care to the individuals The Arc Otsego serves, she also looks out for the best interests of agency employees, always striving for and supporting a strong, professional workforce. During the early part of her career, she created the policies and procedures that exist for the agency, established an employee engagement committee, and always emphasized the importance of health and wellness for all staff.

Pat developed creative and community-centered opportunities through the opening and operation of many programs, including The Otsego ReUse Center, Creekside Industries, and The Main View Gallery and Gift Shop. She has been a part of the agency through decades of success in service, most recently as a force for stability and safety through the COVID lockdown.

Outside the agency, Pat has served on several boards and committees that provide services to the greater community. Such Boards include Otsego County Community Services Board where she has chaired the Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee, Oneonta Youth Soccer Association, and the DSRIP Committee for Bassett Healthcare. She has previously served on the board of the Bugbee Children's Center, the SUNY Oneonta Institutional Review Board, the Otsego County Health Planning Advisory Council, the NYS-CARES Oversight Committee, and served on numerous committees with the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

If you would like to visit with Pat before she enters retirement, she will be at the Otsego ReUse Center on May 19, 2021 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., or at the Main View Gallery and Gift Shop on May 26, 2021 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pat will also be at the All Together Art Show opening at the Main View Gallery on May 21st from 5-7pm. There will be a card collection box at each location if you would like to share notes of congratulations.

If you would like to send your own notes of congratulations to Pat, they can be mailed to The Arc Otsego, Attn: Pat Knuth, PO Box 490, Oneonta, NY 13820.

The Arc Otsego, a chapter of The Arc New York, is a private, not-for-profit organization offering comprehensive, community-based services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Otsego County, NY. For more information, visit www.arcotsego.org or call 607-432-8595.