

r



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Melissa Rose Marketing Works PR 631.882.7938
melissa@marketingworkspr.com

New Hope Community Opens Its Doors and Hearts To Spread Holiday Joy to Hundreds of Neighbors

Loch Sheldrake, NY, January 9, 2020 -- Holiday lights and giving hearts shined brightly at New Hope Community in Loch Sheldrake, NY this past holiday season.

New Hope Community (NHC), a leading agency offering holistic supportive services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, hosted their 2nd Annual Holiday Family Dinner on December 10th and once again, partnered with Officer Edwards for the annual Fallsburg PBA Toy Drive Giveaway. This year, NHC volunteers dished up 541 hot meals, prepared by the NHC Community Bistro and served with a smile to Sullivan County families.

Each child received a gift from Santa and his elves and several generous companies donated items which added to the festivities, including: Ideal Snacks Corporation, Freskeeto Frozen Foods, Inc. and I Zakarin & Sons Paper, Inc.

New Hope Community CEO Debra McGinness greeted each arriving guest warmly as carols played, children romped and neighbors celebrated the spirit of giving with the people of New Hope. "The holidays are a magical time but they can also be stressful for families who are finding it hard to make ends meet," McGinness observed. "New Hope Community has been a part of this community for more than 40 years, and our neighbors are our extended family. It is a real privilege to be able to demonstrate our commitment to our community. We all need to support one another in ways that collectively lift us up and bring us together."

Through its ongoing relationship with *Sullivan County Head Start (SCHS)*, in Woodbourne, NY, New Hope Community volunteers and staff members also "adopted" 93 children for the holidays, providing nearly 300 wrapped gifts from the children's personal wish lists. Earlier in the year, costumed staff and individuals from NHC hosted a Halloween trick or treating event for 160 Head Start children in NHC's main building. NHC also contributed funds to help support Head Start's clinical and programming services to children and their parents.

New Hope Community also recognizes first responders at local fire and rescue departments and contributes time, food and dollars to local food pantries and community nutritional programs.

This past Thanksgiving, NHC made possible the distribution of 100 meals through the Church of the Immaculate Conception, in Fallsburg, NY and additionally contributed funds benefiting the Federation for the Homeless in Monticello and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in South Fallsburg. NHC also provided provisions for the SUNY Sullivan Food Pantry which assists students who are unable to afford standard meal plans. And, the NHC Community Bistro, in conjunction with their Day Habilitation Program participants prepared enough soup to feed approximately 3,240 local people in need over a three-month period in support of the Sullivan County Community Lunch program.

Each growing season, New Hope Community's sustainable Hope Farm donates fresh produce grown and harvested by those supported at NHC, to area residents who face nutritional hardships. By sharing the fruits of their labor, those working at Hope Farm – some of whom rely on special off-road wheelchairs to navigate the terrain -- can alleviate hunger and support nutritional health, within their community.

Through strong partnerships with civic organizations, area employers and educational institutions, such as SUNY Sullivan and BOCES, New Hope Community also creates countless opportunities for the men and women of NHC to support dynamic programs, projects and initiatives within Sullivan County.

The bottom line is that New Hope Community believes in giving back to the community and dedicating efforts to the build of community networks and partnerships that improve the lives of all involved. "It's about building social capital with the understanding that each community member's wellbeing is shaped by that of another. We are strongest, healthiest and most productive when working together," McGinness said.

About New Hope Community

New Hope Community is a not-for-profit human services organization providing support for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Established in 1975 to serve as a nurturing and caring alternative to large institutions which were found to have violated the most basic human rights and conditions, New Hope Community has become recognized as a leading provider in the human services field. Services include clinical and nursing care, day programming, education and recreation, leisure activities, a robust supported employment program, summer programs for youths, community habilitation, and more. The agency has always maintained a person-centered approach aimed at enhancing the lives of people with disabilities, and actively advocates for individual choice in a person's efforts to live, work, and participate fully in his or her community. New Hope Community presently supports and serves over 800 individuals and is a leading employer in Sullivan, Westchester and Putnam Counties, with more than 1,200 staff. Learn more at www.newhopecommunity.org.