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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2026

New Hope Community Appoints Richard Robbins to Board of Directors

Experienced attorney and community leader brings decades of legal expertise and public service to the organization


Photo courtesy of New Hope Community.

LOCH SHELDRAKE, N.Y.—New Hope Community, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard Robbins to its Board of Directors.

With decades of experience in law, local government and volunteer leadership, Robbins brings a strong commitment to advocacy, collaboration and community service that aligns with New Hope Community's mission to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and empower them to live the lives they choose.

"We are delighted to welcome Richard to New Hope Community's Board of Directors," said Karen Russell, CEO of New Hope Community. "Throughout his career, Richard has demonstrated a genuine commitment to helping others, advocating for fairness and strengthening the communities he serves. Richard's legal expertise and his experience guiding public planning and governance will be tremendous assets as we continue advancing our mission and creating opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to thrive."

Robbins brings more than four decades of legal experience representing individuals and families in complex civil litigation, including medical malpractice, personal injury and product liability cases. He spent much of his career practicing at two highly respected law firms, Sanocki, Newman & Turret and Julien & Schlesinger. He also maintained his independent practice, the Law Offices of Richard Robbins, where he continued representing clients later in his career.

"It is an honor to join New Hope Community's Board of Directors and contribute to an organization that makes such a meaningful difference in the lives of the people and families it serves," said Robbins. "I look forward to working alongside fellow board members and leadership to build on its strong foundation, advance its strategic vision and help shape the next chapter of its impact in the community."

Robbins has served as chairman of the Town of Forestburgh Planning Board since his appointment in 2016. He has also played a leading role on several town committees, helping guide updates to Forestburgh's comprehensive plan, zoning regulations and other municipal codes while promoting transparency, fairness and community engagement.

Robbins also brings longtime community leadership with The Merriewold Club, Inc., where he has served in numerous roles, including president, senior legal officer and chairman of both the legal and property committees. His experience in governance, strategic planning and community leadership will provide valuable insight as New Hope Community continues to expand its programs and services.

Robbins earned his bachelor's degree with honors from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and his law degree from New York Law School. He holds an AV peer-review rating from Martindale-Hubbell, its highest peer-review rating for legal ability and ethics, recognizing his legal ability and professional ethics.

About New Hope Community:
Established in 1975, New Hope Community is a not-for-profit providing supports for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Recognized today as a leading provider in the human services field, the organization maintains a person-centered approach and actively advocates for individual choice in a person's efforts to live, work and participate fully in his or her community. Its breadth of services includes clinical and nursing care, residential services, day programming, community habilitation, self-direction, support brokers, service navigators, education, recreation and leisure activities, a robust supported employment program, summer programs for youths, and much more.

In 2020, New Hope Community merged with Select Human Services, Inc. (SHS) of Pleasantville, NY, a not-for-profit voluntary agency providing services in Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Counties. The combined organization provides services to more than 700 people and employs more than 1,000 staff.