

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT SCHENECTADY ARC ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

Tuesday, February 22, 2011 – SCHENECTADY, NY – Linda C. Lahaie, who has run Schenectady ARC for over a quarter of a century, will step down at the end of the year. Lahaie is resigning to explore other endeavors.

Lahaie was selected as Executive Director in 1984, and has guided Schenectady ARC through a period of growth that culminated with the not-for-profit being one of the largest employers in Schenectady County and a Best Place to Work. Lahaie joined ARC in 1983 as Director of Day Treatment.

"I have enjoyed this great opportunity to lead such an exceptional organization," Lahaie said, adding, "I remember how different it was when I came to Schenectady ARC. ... I sometimes can't believe how far we have come in such a short time."

"She leaves Schenectady ARC a stronger and more financially secure agency," said Mary Otter, chair of the board of directors. When Lahaie started as Executive Director the agency had 75 employees and 4 residences and served only about 200 consumers. Today the ARC serves more than 1000 consumers, employs over 550, and has 21 houses, a vocational center and a wide variety of programs and services including transportation. The organization also expanded their clinical services by becoming certified as an Article 28 clinic. The agency now has an operating budget of 28 million.

"Linda's contribution to the human services field in the Capital Region cannot be overstated," Otter said. "Linda has established Schenectady ARC as the leading agency for providing services to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Schenectady County. Her ability to reach across the table and develop partnerships has strengthened the mission and vision of Schenectady ARC."

During her tenure at Schenectady ARC, the agency has seen tremendous growth not only in programming and participants but also in stature and place within the community.

Lahaie is a member of numerous statewide boards, commissions, and business groups. She previously served on The Chamber of Schenectady County Board of Directors and as a member of their Nominating Committee.

"I have appointed a search committee to find Lahaie's replacement," Otter said. "It's important that we have people who understand how vital a role Schenectady ARC plays in terms of providing services to individuals with Developmental Disabilities and creating a harmonious community,"

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