

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Arc Quinebaug Valley celebrates opening of new Chaplin Day Program Center and Emporium II**

The Arc Quinebaug Valley's new Chaplin Day Program Center and Emporium II is now open at 174 Willimantic Rd. (Rte.6) in Chaplin.

To celebrate the new center, town and state officials joined supporters of The Arc and members of the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

"We're glad to be part of Chaplin and this community," said Jeff Rawson, vice president of The Arc's Board of Directors. "I think this will be great for the folks we serve and I'm proud to be a part of it."

Roger Adams, executive director of the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce, gave The Arc a warm welcome.

"We're delighted to have any new enterprise in our region," Adams said. "Particularly when it provides services to quite a number of individuals."

State Sen. Anthony Guglielmo, R-Stafford Springs, praised The Arc for their work and their new facility.

"I think the work done here is very important," Guglielmo said. "It's commendable and I'm very glad you're here."

Attendees were treated to a tour of the new facility, starting with the new store, the Emporium II, a smaller version of The Arc's very successful store, The Emporium, in downtown Putnam. The Emporium II is open from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The store features household goods, furniture, ladies' accessories, jewelry, and local items like honey and maple sugar products. There is a sweet shop and visitors can find brochures for attractions in the area. The Emporium II is a unique blend of gift items, books, one-of-a-kind furniture pieces and so much more!

The new location also offers a Day Services Program that provides a safe and nurturing environment for individuals with intellectual, developmental and other life-affecting disabilities. The Day Services program provides opportunities for individuals to learn a variety of work and social skills through group supported activities and community involvement. The Arc is now accepting referrals for both Chaplin and our Day Program in Danielson.

Chaplin will also feature a satellite Employment Services Program. Community employment will be developed for those interested in finding meaningful work and competitive wages. Through contracts with the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, The Arc provides employment training for individuals with many other types of disabilities. Services include job readiness/interview preparedness, situational assessment, job developing/placement, and job coaching.

“We are so excited to continue to grow,” said Executive Director Susan Desrosiers. “Our new location represents more opportunities to support individuals with life-affecting disabilities in our community live fuller and more independent lives.”