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PRESS RELEASE

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***LEXINGTON CELEBRATES NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK***

Gloversville, NY--Lexington, Fulton Chapter of NYSARC, Inc., in conjunction with the United States Senate, is proud to this year recognize September 7-13 as National Direct Support Professionals Week. Direct support professionals (DSPs) are the primary providers of hands-on care for millions of individuals who have disabilities. DSPs provide a broad range of supports including preparing meals; dispensing medication; bathing; dressing; providing transportation to school, work, church, recreational activities, and much more.

Lexington DSPs routinely go above and beyond their required duties, doing all they can to create nurturing environments for and lasting relationships with the individuals they support. For instance, Pete Hatch has helped with lifeguarding and camping for many years and is always the first to volunteer to go on overnight trips, whether it is with his own house or other houses. Ashley Hill, who supports a group of boys, always does her best to make it to special events at their schools and their birthday parties and holiday celebrations, even when she's not on duty. Heather Colvin makes herself available to help wherever she may be needed, whether it's covering a

shift, going with someone to their doctor's appointment or helping someone establish a friendship. These are just a few examples of many.

"It is important to take time out during National Direct Support Professionals Week to thank direct support professionals for all they do and for the impact they make each and every day in the lives of individuals with disabilities. Our employees are the foundation of the exceptional care we provide to children and adults with disabilities," said Shaloni Winston, Lexington's Executive Director. "I am very grateful for the highly compassionate Direct Support Professionals at Lexington."

In addition, Gloversville Mayor Dayton King will proclaim September 7-13 "Direct Support Professionals Week" at the Gloversville Common Council meeting on Tuesday, September 9.

Lexington's mission is to provide the best possible service to children and adults who are disabled and their families, to be the best possible employer for its employees, and to contribute to the community.

*Lexington, Fulton County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc., is a private, not-for-profit agency providing a wide range of services to adults and children who are disabled in Fulton and Albany Counties. Created in 1953 by a group of concerned parents, Lexington is recognized as one of the leading agencies of its kind in New York State.*

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