

## For Immediate Release

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### **The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut Awards \$18,000 to The Arc New London County for Job Development Program**

In an effort to reverse 20 years of stagnant placement of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities into competitive employment, The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut awarded an \$18,000 Southeast General grant to The Arc New London County to help augment its Job Development component at the Employment Transition Center, based in Groton.

“This is such an unserved segment of our community,” noted Kathleen Stauffer, CEO of The Arc NLC. “Thanks to the Community Foundation, a progressive approach to employment for people with IDD is now possible. The results of this grant can steer us in important directions.”

The grant will allow The Arc NLC to hire a full time Job Developer, who will establish relationships with employers, coordinate with case managers and families, insure a beneficial working relationship between employers and The Arc NLC’s Job Coaches, and coordinate training opportunities for participants based on their career interests and goals. In this way, area employers are assured of receiving qualified, dedicated and skilled employees, and continue to hire people with IDD as positions become available.

Funded by donors that include the Marjorie B. and Laurence P. Smith Fund, the Melvin Simon Fund, and the David C. Smith Memorial Fund, CFECT’s Southeast General Grant program provides aid to programs that promote basic needs and rights, including promoting individual and family economic security.

To learn more about The Arc NLC’s Employment Transition Center, as well as its other programs, please visit [thearcnlc.org](http://thearcnlc.org) or contact Denise Tift at (860) 889-4435, ext. 116.