

For Immediate Release

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The Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting celebrating the grand opening of The Arc New London County's management of Local Creations, the consignment and gift shop at the Groton Senior Center. The Town of Groton invited The Arc New London County to operate the consignment shop following an RFP sent to interested agencies in May 2017. The Town and The Arc NLC then worked together to relaunch the existing business, which in addition to offering handmade local goods and gifts to the public, provides vocational training in retail sales, customer service and inventory management to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities served by The Arc NLC.

Seniors, crafters and holiday shoppers attended the open house, and praised the shop's new look. Interim Director of Community Enterprise Ricky Gervais and his team of trainees and their Job Coach worked with current consigners to showcase their hand-made items as well as other gifts and Arc NLC baked goods. "This is the perfect opportunity for our participant employees to learn some really valuable skills. We want to make this store well-known in the community and as inviting as possible.

The Arc NLC's CEO Kathleen Stauffer presented a volunteer service award to Sarah and Tomi Stanley, who were instrumental in decorating the store and preparing it for its grand re-opening. Kristin Hartnett, Manager of Membership and Sales at the Mystic Chamber, organized the ceremony and reception, which featured desserts from The Arc NLC's culinary program. "We are thrilled to see this collaboration take place, and welcome The Arc NLC to the Groton Business Community." Kathleen Stauffer, addressing the group, agreed. "As towns have struggled and looked for alternate sources of revenue, I'd like to thank Groton for its vision and creativity in working with us to train people in new jobs and create new taxpayers. This is the perfect example of how the public/private partnership can work at its most constructive level."

The Local Creations consignment shop is located in the lobby of the Groton Senior Center and is open Monday-Friday, 9:30-1:30pm.

For more information, please contact Denise Tift at (860) 889-4435 x 116 or dtift@thearcnlc.org