

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Michelle Yadoo
Marketing Communications Coordinator
(516) 922-4100, ext. 231

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Mill Neck Services Named “Agency of the Year”

Congratulations to Mill Neck Services, recently named the Long Island region’s “Agency of the Year for 2013” by the Self Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS). Cathy Loquercio, SANYS Statewide President, announced Mill Neck’s award in sign language at the organization’s recent conference held in Melville. Following the announcement, the over 500 people in attendance signed their congratulatory applause. At one point, Loquercio summed up the importance of learning to advocate for oneself by saying, “Speak up, you have a voice. Speaking out on issues is more important than ever. Self-advocacy has truly transformed the system.”

At this year’s conference, titled, “Self- Advocacy: Leading the Transformation,” attendees, including those from local agencies, state government, parents and school districts, learned about the evolution of this support system for individuals with developmental disabilities in New York State. Discussions involving the philosophy of self-determination and how self-advocacy tools are the keys to success for people with disabilities were significant components of the day. SANYS is currently supporting a new initiative to teach Deaf individuals (as well as community members) about their rights, including the right to request interpretive services when needed.

Long Island Self Advocacy consists of regional groups that are part of the Self Advocacy Association of New York State. Founded in 1986, SANYS is run by and for people with developmental disabilities. Among the core activities that SANYS promotes are: teaching individuals with developmental disabilities about self-advocacy; educating self-advocates and families about individualized supports and providing support for regional self-advocacy groups. Find out more on the Self Advocacy Association of New York State by visiting www.sanys.org or go to the Long Island Region’s Facebook page at SANYS Long Island.

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Established in 1986, Mill Neck Services, Inc. has placed more than 1,000 Deaf, Hard of Hearing or otherwise disabled workers in over 400 businesses operating on Long Island. Mill Neck Services is part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, which also includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf and Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center. For more information, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit www.millneck.org.

Photo Caption:

Mill Neck Services, recently awarded “Agency of the Year for 2013,” for the Long Island Region of the Self Advocacy Association of New York State, joined a number of other groups at the recent conference.

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