



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ACLD Inaugural 'Limitless Luncheon' Fundraiser Inspires Empowerment and Leadership

Honorees and people supported by ACLD lead a celebration of living an enviable life

Bethpage, NY/Huntington, NY, May 20, 2019 – In an enthusiastic effort to inspire people and empower a limitless life for all, **ACLD** (Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc.), headquartered in Bethpage, NY, hosted its inaugural Limitless Luncheon event on May 2, 2019 at the historic Oheka Castle in Huntington, NY. With over 130 guests from many business sectors, the event grossed more than \$32,000 in support for people with learning and developmental disabilities.

Co-chaired by **Donna Drake**, Executive Producer and host of the national talk show “The Donna Drake Show – Live It Up” and **Lori Farley-Toth**, Vice President of National Recruiting Group, the event was abuzz with excitement beginning with opening remarks from honorary chair and host **Erica Byfield**, Emmy® Award-winning reporter for **NBC 4 New York**. Limitless Luncheon Committee Member **Anne Marie Sime**, ACLD’s Senior Director of Adult Services stated, “The Limitless Luncheon is an opportunity for us to celebrate people who have overcome adversity; people who have dared to dream against overwhelming odds and have seen those dreams realized; people who fight for the rights of others so that everyone has the same opportunities; and people who dedicate their lives to helping and supporting others.”

DJS Events produced the first-time event for ACLD. Event sponsors included “Risk Taker” level: Airweld, Inc.; Crest/Good Manufacturing Company, Inc.; Michael Dotsikas, Nesenoff & Miltenberg, LLP; Santander Bank; Applied Visions, Inc.; and Sullivan & Worcester, LLP. “Brave” level: Vanderbilt Financial Group; and LDI Color ToolBox. “Tenacious” level: Goddard Law PLLC; and At Your Side Home Care Services. Media sponsors included: Long Island Business News; Anton Media Group; P.O.W.E.R.; and The Donna Drake Show.

Rohan Murphy, a nationally recognized speaker, gave the event’s keynote address. Rohan, who lost his legs at birth, began wrestling in high school and continued the sport at Penn State University. A natural athlete, Rohan is now an accomplished power lifter who competes internationally representing the United States. He has been featured on ABC News and in Sports Illustrated, and has appeared in a Nike commercial to motivate others to exercise and live a healthy lifestyle.

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Another Limitless Luncheon highlight was the presentation of two awards. The **Unsung Hero Award** recognized **John Lee Cronin** and **Mark X. Cronin**, founders of **John’s Crazy Socks**, a father-son venture inspired by co-founder John Lee Cronin, a young man with Down syndrome. John’s affinity for crazy socks paired with his love of making people smile made the mission clear: spreading happiness. John and Mark have a social mission and a retail mission, and they are indivisible: showing what is possible when you give someone a chance. Every day, they demonstrate what great things people with intellectual disabilities can do. John and Mark are also dedicated to giving back, and five percent of their earnings are donated to Special Olympics, which has played a vital role in John’s development. Each Limitless Luncheon guest left with a pair of socks specially created for ACLD by John’s Crazy Socks.

Megan Goddard, Esq., Managing Attorney at **Goddard Law PLLC**, received the **Champion Award**. She has devoted her career to advocating for equal opportunities in the workplace. She serves on the Executive Board of the New York Chapter of the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) and is a member of the NELA’s Gender Discrimination Committee. Megan’s dedication to protecting equality extends beyond her legal practice; she is a longtime volunteer for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, as well as for the iMentor organization, Operation Santa Claus and the Cure Huntington’s Disease Initiative Foundation.

About Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (ACL D): Founded in 1957, ACLD is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit agency whose mission is to provide opportunities to more than 3,000 children and adults with autism, learning and developmental disabilities to pursue enviable lives, promote independence and foster supportive relationships within the community. ACLD employs more than 1,300 people and operates more than 87 different program sites including community residences and apartment programs across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Services include early childhood services, day habilitation, residential alternatives, vocational training and job placement, recreation programs, respite, family support services, and occupational, speech and physical therapies. For more information, go to www.acl d.org.

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