

Arc honors staff member, volunteers

The Arc of Stanly County, Monarch staff members and volunteers received honors during The Arc of NC 2015 Annual Awards Luncheon

The Arc of North Carolina held their 2015 Annual Awards Luncheon in Wake County on Sept. 25 to honor chapter member nominees statewide for their hard work and dedication.

During the ceremony, Antwain Hamilton, a direct support professional at Monarch's Stanly Industrial Services (SIS) in Albemarle, received the 2015 Direct Support Professional of the Year award. Monarch volunteer Paige Wilhelm, of Albemarle, accepted the 2015 Volunteer of the Year award.

"Both Antwain and Paige give generously of their time and talents in so many ways that promote the mission and values of The Arc," said Jeanette Wilhelm, Monarch advocate and quality management coordinator. "We are honored they were recognized for their hard work and dedication to serving

and mentoring people with disabilities."

Hamilton has provided direct support for more than 10 years.

"Antwain has dedicated his life to the people who receive services here at Monarch since 2003," said Monarch SIS Site Director Kerry Stipe. "He has a heart of gold and it shows in all he does."

Paige Wilhelm began volunteering at Monarch because of her love for her brother Matthew, who has intellectual and developmental disabilities and is supported by Monarch.

She has served as a spokeswoman and advocate for people with disabilities, conducted school projects, participated in community events and written papers surrounding disability issues, as well as attended the 2015 Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. with the Arc of Stanly County.

In May, Wilhelm spoke during an Arc of Stanly awards event about her many experiences growing up with and supporting a brother with a disability. Through this speech she was able to in-

spire others to also volunteer at Monarch.

"Because of her life experiences Paige is pursuing a career that will enable her to continue making a positive difference in the lives of those with disabilities. Even at her young age she is a leader in advocating for people with disabilities," said former N.C. Sen. Gene McLaurin, who is a longtime supporter of people with disabilities, in his nomination of Wilhelm.

Monarch board members Larry and Brenda Hinson, of Albemarle, were also installed as NC Arc Board Members. Brenda Hinson was appointed a regional member and Larry Hinson will serve as vice president of the region.

In 1958, the Arc of Stanly County was formed by a small group of concerned parents and other individuals who wanted to help family members with intellectual and developmental disabilities. That group became The Arc of Stanly, an organization that continues to provide advo-



cacy for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Monarch operates The

Arc of Stanly County, which is a chapter of The Arc of North Carolina and The Arc of the United

States.

Call (866) 272-7826 or visit www.MonarchNC.org.



Pictured: Paige Wilhelm and Antwain Hamilton.

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