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Thomas J. Sullivan Receives Community Lifetime Achievement Award

FARMINGTON, CT – The Connecticut Community Providers Association today awarded the organization’s Annual Lifetime Achievement Award to Thomas J. Sullivan, a Groton Long Point resident whose contribution to human services spans 42 years and three states including the government and private sectors.

Sullivan has been long recognized for championing the rights of people with intellectual and related disabilities, having been named an American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Fellow; a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow; and a Town of Waterford (CT) Citizen of the Year (1985). Until his retirement as Executive Director of The Arc of New London County, Sullivan led the not-for-profit agency to new levels of growth and service in fulfillment of its mission to advocate for full inclusion of people with intellectual and related disabilities here in Southeastern Connecticut.

On his retirement in June 2009, The Board of Directors of The Arc of New London County named the Arc’s new Sullivan Employment Transition Center in Groton, Connecticut, to honor Sullivan.

The 130-member CCPA represents groups statewide that provide services and supports for children and adults with disabilities and significant challenges including people with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental and physical disabilities. Nominees for the Lifetime Achievement Award must demonstrate sustained commitment and significant contribution to the human service field and the consumers it serves.

NOTE: The Arc of New London County is New London County’s agency of choice for many people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities. Located at 125 Sachem Street in Norwich, Connecticut, The Arc was established in 1952 by parents of children with intellectual disabilities to serve the citizens of New London County. Board of Directors: Diane Aubin, President; Enrico DeMatto, Vice President; Catherine Steel, Secretary; John Fournier, Treasurer; Jessica Clark, Client Representative; Members: Karen DiSaia, Deborah Gregoire, Emily Fournier, Joanne Kerr, Alan Messier, Tom Reynolds, Linda Rhodes. Immediate Past President: Shannon Aiello.