



**Crystal Run
Village, Inc.**

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News

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The Middletown based Wishes and Dreams self-advocacy group has been awarded Hudson Valley Self-Advocacy Group of the Year by the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State at its region four annual conference at Casperkill Country Club in Poughkeepsie.

The recognition is based on the group's many accomplishments since its inception in 1998; foremost has been their encouragement of others to see people with disabilities as people rather than as yet another population to be served. According to Wishes and Dreams President Richard Bywater, a main goal for Wishes and Dreams self-advocates is to have control over their own lives through increased knowledge of their civil rights and greater understanding of their responsibilities to all people. The members of Wishes and Dreams are determined to become more and more involved as citizens in the communities where they live in ways similar to other civic organizations, such as Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs. They do this by developing leadership skills, through volunteering, fundraising, giving to others in need and by educating themselves.

Recent accomplishments include: meeting with legislators in Albany; presentations to high school students considering careers in disability services; educating individuals living in a congregate setting on the benefits of community life, and establishment of a business office.

Wishes and Dreams is comprised of 24 people living in residences managed by Crystal Run Village, Inc., a human services agency providing services for the integration and empowerment of people with disabilities in Orange, Rockland and Sullivan Counties.

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