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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 2009

WHO WILL TAKE CARE FOR MY LOVED ONE WHEN I CAN'T..."
Local Agencies to Participate in Budget Vigil at State Capitol

- WHO:** Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, staff and supporters of New Horizons Resources, Inc., Abilities First and Dutchess ARC.
- WHAT:** Vigil of parents and people who have developmental disabilities who want to meet with Governor Paterson.
- WHEN:** Friday, November 6, 2009 - 10:00am – 4:00pm **New Horizons Resources, Inc. participating**
Monday, November 9, 2009 - 10:00am – 4:00pm **Dutchess ARC participating**
Tuesday, November 7, 2009 - 10:00am – 4:00pm **Abilities First Participating**
- WHERE:** Governor's Reception Area, NYS Capitol.
- WHY:** Families want to meet with Governor Paterson and ask him to restore the 10% proposed cuts to OMRDD funding for programs provided by voluntary agencies across the state like New Horizons Resources, Inc., Abilities First and Dutchess ARC.

New Horizons Resources, Inc, Abilities First and Dutchess ARC are joining parents, family members and people with developmental disabilities from around the State in participating in a vigil beginning on Thursday, November 5 in the waiting room to the Governor's Office in the State Capital Building. The vigil is expected to last for several days as the Governor and Legislature consider proposed budget cuts.

New Horizons Resources, Inc. participated by sending 40 individuals to Albany to hold vigil and draw attention to the potential impact of the Governor's proposed budget cuts on November 6th. Dutchess ARC and Abilities First will do the same on Monday, November 9th and Tuesday, November 10th, respectively. The three agencies have joined together to represent the over 2,500 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families that utilize their services in the Hudson Valley and their collective 1,000 employees. If enacted, the Deficit Reduction Plan will jeopardize the continuation of many of the programs provided throughout the Hudson Valley – and likely cause layoffs as a result.

The purpose of the vigil will be to meet with Governor Paterson to discuss what his budget cuts mean for New York State's most vulnerable citizens.

The vigil is also intended to remind all New Yorkers about what the Governor's proposed budget cuts mean to the health, safety and lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Many parents and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities rely on services to care for their adult family members with developmental disabilities. Experts believe that the budget cuts proposed by the Governor will devastate these services. Families are terrified by the Governor's proposed cuts. They wonder who will care for their loved one when they are no longer around, due to death or incapacity, to care for their family member or oversee their family member's care.

These families – as well as the staff who care for their loved ones – have compelling personal stories about what the cuts will mean to their loved one. They have assembled for this vigil to make certain that Governor, his staff, legislators and the press have a real face to put on abstract numbers being bandied about as the State debates the current budget crisis.

None of these people deny that New York State has real budget problems. None deny that it will require sacrifice. But it is impossible for the State to responsibly move forward on these issues without measuring their real cost.

For more information regarding the budget vigil and how you can become involved, please contact Lindsay Roth at (845) 635-8084 x152 or visit www.dutchess-arc.org. Dutchess ARC has set up a DRP hotline, updated regularly, at (845) 635-8084 x123.

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