



ACDS Executive Director Michael M. Smith Selected As One of LIBN's 50 Around 50 Honorees

Plainview, NY – ACDS Executive Director, Michael M. Smith, was honored at the “50 Around 50” awards held by the Long Island Business News (LIBN) on Thursday, September 19th at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. ACDS is an organization dedicated to providing lifetime resources of exceptional quality, innovation and inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities.

LIBN’s “50 Around 50” awards was established to recognize the accomplishments of Long Island community leaders around 50 years old. Aside from the awards ceremony itself, attendees enjoyed fantastic food, music and merriment at the picturesque Crest Hollow that evening.

Award recipients were esteemed men and women who are not only local business pioneers, but also mentors and supporters of not-for-profit organizations. Smith was selected in LIBN’s “Class of 2013” for his years of devotion, leadership and commitment to Smith to improving the community through ACDS.

Smith commented, “The work we do at ACDS is so important. To be recognized by my colleagues at the Long Island Business News’ ‘50 Around 50’ event - on top of the rich reward we get for helping those with developmental disorders - is such an incredible honor. The future of our organization is bright. As a life-long agency, we’ll continue to grow and provide the very latest programs and assistance for both children and adults.”

Smith’s background and work are impressive. He grew up on Long Island, graduated from the Waldorf School in Garden City, received his B.A. in English Literature from Tufts University, and then went on to Hofstra to earn his M.A. and pursued his doctorate in American Studies at NYU. He taught for five years at the prep school and university levels (at Hofstra) before working in New York City government where he eventually moved to the Division of Special Education at the NYC Board of Education.

Smith then migrated to the non-profit sector 25 years ago, first at the New York Institute for the Blind, then at a series of agencies in New York and Connecticut. In 1995 and 2001, Smith attended the program for Non-Profit Management at Harvard’s Graduate Business School. ACDS is the fourth agency Smith has served as Executive Director.

Since he came to ACDS in 2004, the agency has more than doubled in size. During his tenure, the organization has built its reputation and expanded program offerings, allowing the organization to serve many more individuals over a wide scope while never losing sight of its original mission. ACDS is thriving today due in large part to his tireless efforts.

The dedicated staff at ACDS congratulates Michael M. Smith on this well-deserved honor and looks forward to its continued success. All of the individuals at the agency will surely continue to benefit under his leadership for years to come.

ACDS, located in Plainview, NY is dedicated to providing lifetime resources of exceptional quality, innovation and inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities and their families. ACDS has been providing programs and services in and around Long Island for 45 years. ACDS currently serves more than 900 children and adults, providing services that include Early Intervention and preschool special education programs, respite and recreation programs for children, teens and adults, adult Medicaid service coordination and seven supervised group homes in Nassau County.