



## Anderson Center Consulting Rhinebeck: An Autism Supportive Community

### How it began...

- ❖ Anderson Center for Autism's mission is to optimize the quality of life for individuals with autism. Our effort goes beyond Anderson's individual participants and extends to our broader community which has been largely accomplished through our Autism Supportive Environment<sup>SM</sup> program. This program is a community partnership designed to assist businesses and organizations in understanding, serving and supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families.
- ❖ Our vision is for even greater reach; not one individual, not one business but entire communities.
- ❖ And our vision starts with the Village of Rhinebeck and its Mayor, Gary Bassett, who has whole heartedly embraced this collaboration
- ❖ With the financial support of a grant from the Thomas Thompson Trust, Anderson has been able to partner with the Village of Rhinebeck to establish this community as the first Autism Supportive Community in our region!

### The Project

- ❖ The project is in its infancy but has been approved by the village board, endorsed by the Dutchess County Executive, and a new village committee has been formed to launch this new and exciting endeavor
- ❖ We envision businesses, schools, community organizations, places of worship, and government entities to all work together and pledge to do just "one thing differently" to support people with autism and other special needs or differences within the fabric of this community.

### How to get involved

- ✓ **We welcome thoughts, ideas, commitments to change and involvement!**
- ✓ **Please sign up to receive information as the project unfolds, join the committee or make your pledge now to **DO ONE THING DIFFERENTLY!****
- ✓ **Email Michele Hughes at [mv19792ymail.com](mailto:mv19792ymail.com)**

**Committee Chair: Michele Hughes**