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Media Advisory

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“Life Goes On” Star Chris Burke to Speak and Perform at arc Thrift Stores “Starfish and Dreams” Celebration

arc Thrift Stores Honors Individuals and Businesses who Support People with Developmental Disabilities

October 23, 2008 – Denver, Colorado. arc Thrift Stores will be recognizing individuals and organizations that support people with developmental disabilities at this year’s Starfish and Dreams Celebration on October 29th at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. Thousands of kids in Denver alone live with physical and mental disabilities. One in every 800 children is born each year with Down syndrome, three out of 1,000 have Cerebral Palsy and one out of 150 children are autistic. Arc Thrift Stores and its 12-advocacy chapters share the belief that, with appropriate learning and living environments, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can realize their goals of where and how they live, learn, work and play.

The sold-out celebration includes inspirational speaker and performer Chris Burke. Chris will be discussing his views on developmental disabilities and how society can embrace people with special needs. His band “Chris Burke with Joe and John DeMasi” will also be performing. Chris is well known for his role as Charles “Corky” Thatcher on the ABC hit show “Life Goes On” and his reoccurring role as “Taylor”, the angel of faith, on the TV show “Touched by an Angel.” Born with Down syndrome, Chris’ parents were advised to institutionalize him. Going against doctor’s recommendations, the Burkes raised Chris as they had his older brother and sisters. Chris went on to become a recognized Hollywood actor, singer and inspirational speaker. “Chris epitomizes the fact that people with physical and developmental disabilities can achieve anything they desire,” said Lloyd Lewis President and CEO of arc Thrift Stores. Chris Burke’s appearance at this event is sponsored in part by the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation.

About arc Thrift Stores: arc Thrift Stores operates 18 thrift stores throughout Colorado and provides funding to arc Chapters, which in turn provide advocacy for people with developmental disabilities. arc Thrift Stores is one of the largest employers of individuals with developmental disabilities in the state of Colorado.