



## Media Advisory

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### **“A Night of Recognition and Inspiration at the arc Thrift Starfish Celebration”**

*arc Thrift Stores Honored Individuals and Businesses Who Support People with Developmental Disabilities*

October 30, 2008 – Denver, Colorado. For the past 40 years, arc has been dedicated to the support of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Last night’s celebration was filled with recognition, inspiration, and accomplishment for arc Thrift Stores, and their supporters.

Arc recognized three employees whose for their extraordinary service, dedication, and work ethics. Arc also presented two awards to members of the community for their unparalleled support of people with developmental disabilities.

The Alice Kitt award was presented to the Evergreen High School Cheerleading team. High school cheerleader Megan Bomgaars, who has Down syndrome, became such an important part of her teammates’ lives that they refused to participate in any cheerleading competition without her. This display of acceptance, support and camaraderie were an inspiration to everyone in attendance.

Safeway was recognized for their committed to people with developmental disabilities in the area of employment and training opportunities with the “Community Partners Award.” With the goal of “creating life changing solutions so that individuals with development disabilities can live life to the fullest,” Safeway is a well deserving recipient.

Chris Burke, star of the hit CBS television show “Life Goes On” along with a recurring role on “Touched by an Angel,” and guest appearances on “ER,” “The Promised Land” and “The Division” gave a heart warming speech about living with a developmental disability, which he calls “Up syndrome” and how community members can accept, encourage, and support these individuals. Chris’s band, “The Chris Burke Band” performed for the crowd of over 550 individuals spreading their message of love, inclusion and celebration.

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.