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Media Advisory

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

2009 "Starfish and Dreams" Tickets Now On Sale

May 12, 2009 – 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 Friday, June 19th, 2009. Co-chairs Cleo Parker Robinson, Hope Hernandez Salazar, Larry and Michelle Trujillo and Kirk Montgomery plan to bring awareness to the thousands of people in Colorado who live with physical and cognitive 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 on the autistic spectrum. "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," said Hope Hernandez Salazar, Board Member, arc Thrift Stores.

According to Lloyd Lewis, President and CEO of arc Thrift Stores, "Colorado now ranks 49 out of 50 states in terms of providing services to people with developmental disabilities. It is the mission of arc Thrift Stores to fund advocacy programs that provide a voice to people with disabilities and to further integration in the work-force."

The evening's festivities include a featured performance by the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble and the arc Ambassadors – a dance team comprised of people with developmental disabilities. Additional performances include El Centro Su Teatro, Sheryl Renee and Jo Myers and The Mama's Boys.

The Starfish and Dreams Celebration will take place on June 19th at the Infinity Park Events Center, 4400 E. Kentucky Ave. Glendale, CO 80246. There will be a silent auction beginning at 6:00 pm and dinner and performances from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Individual tickets are \$150.00, young professionals tickets (individuals under age 39) are \$100 and table sponsorships begin at \$1,500.00. For more information or to register please call 303.367.1367 or visit <http://www.starfishanddreams.org>.

About arc Thrift Stores: arc Thrift Stores operates 19 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.