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Media Advisory

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arc Thrift Stores to Honor People with Developmental Disabilities at Starfish and Dreams Event

Three community “heroes” recognized Friday June 19, 2009

June 16, 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. The 2009 honorees include:

Jesse Griego

Jesse is a valued member of the production team at arc in Colorado Springs where he really enjoys working with his fellow associates and guiding staff. However, his contributions don’t stop with arc; Jesse, who has Down Syndrome, volunteers at local nursing homes, the senior center, Manitou Art Theatre and Rogers Elementary school. When Jesse has spare time, he excels and enjoys all areas of the arts – creating mosaics, ceramics, jewelry, singing and acting. He has also participated in the Special Olympics and is pursuing his dream of becoming a Mariachi singer.

Jenny McConville

Not only does Jenny make a great contribution to our Accounting Staff at the main office, she also works part time as a data entry clerk and volunteers for the Alzheimer’s Association. Jenny won a Gold Medal in March as a member of the Special Olympics basketball team and has now set her sights on a track team medal! Autism doesn’t stop her – Jenny also enjoys acting and just finished a performance as Sharpay in High School Musical. She enjoys cheering for her brother’s sports team and going to movies.

April Rennings

For the past three years, April has been a Department Assistant at our Colfax store, where her Manager really relies on her because her attendance has been outstanding. Her fellow employees enjoy working with April because of her kind spirit and playful, whimsical nature. She is a greeter in the store and, although sometimes her cerebral palsy makes it difficult for her to verbalize, she has overcome this obstacle and welcomes our customers who look forward to seeing her.

According to Lloyd Lewis, President and CEO of arc Thrift Stores, “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 supports its eleven chapters that fund advocacy programs that provide a voice for people with disabilities and 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 professional 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.