

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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arc Thrift Stores Announce Annual Awards

Denver, CO – arc Thrift Stores announced its 2007 awards at its recent annual banquet. Receiving the Lifetime Achievement award was **Jim Colvin**, who is only the third lifetime achievement award winner in the nearly 40 year history of arc Thrift. He has served on the Board of Trustees for 13 years and has served on a variety of committees. In addition, he has been active with a local chapter, the Arc of Pikes Peak. The **Colorado Crush** was awarded the Community Impact Award for its strong support of arc Thrift, taking its responsibility to the community very seriously and hoping to enhance awareness and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. Employee of the Year awards went to **Candace Raschke, Alan Darland and Lisa Potter**. Raschke is an employee of the Austin Bluffs store in Colorado Springs and has worked in greeting customers, the bric brac, toy, and shoes and accessories departments. Darland works in the arc Thrift store in Arvada, and is greatly appreciated by supervisors and fellow employees; in addition to his work at arc, he is an Eagle Scout and worked hard on an “all-out” fund-raising campaign for the Boy Scouts. Potter works in the corporate office in the IT department on data entry and administrative work; she is a graduate of Clear Creek High School in Idaho Springs where she still lives and worked previously for the American Red Cross and other organizations, and attended Warren Tech-Vocational School and Red Rocks Community College. **Matt Wilson**, a more than 20-year veteran at the Broadway store, was recognized for his work ethic as well as comic relief when his twin brother joins him at work and there appear to be two Matts in the store. All of the employees of the year have some form of developmental disabilities. The keynote speaker for the evening was **Gretchen Josephson**, a long-time employee of the Denver Dry Goods’ Tea Room who still works in retail. In addition to an inspiring speech, she wooed the crowd with one of her many poems from her book *Bus Girl*.

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About arc Thrift Stores

Through high standards and a commitment to excellence and integrity, the mission of arc Thrift Stores (www.arcthrift.com) is to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by providing funding to support the ARC and ACL programs of Colorado. Developmental disabilities include Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and all other forms of developmental disabilities. There are 11 ARC and ACL chapters in Colorado which provide advocacy and services for person with developmental disabilities. arc Thrift, with an annual budget of \$40 million and more than 700 employees, has generated more than \$10 million in proceeds during the last five years. For the fiscal year 2007, over \$3 million was distributed to assist persons with developmental disabilities and their families.