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**EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE ARC OF BALTIMORE**

BALTIMORE, MD (5/12/08) --- Six employees of The Arc of Baltimore recently were honored by the organization during its Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony, held May 7 at the Crowne Plaza Baltimore in Timonium, MD.

Recipients of awards for their outstanding contributions to both the organization and the individuals with developmental disabilities whom it serves included the following:

- **Robyn Vance**, an employment training specialist with The Arc, won the Excellence in Direct Support Work Award, in memory of Louise Dasch. The award is presented to the direct support professional who demonstrates general excellence in job performance. In addition to providing on-site job training to supported workers, based on each individual's abilities, needs, and desires, Robyn spends her free time taking supported workers on outings so they can get together with friends. As one of her crew shares, "Robyn pushes me to do things for myself. She allows me to make my own choices and respects my decisions."
- **Patti Dreisch** was honored with the Excellence in Management Award, in memory of Herbert L. Fedder. An Arc of Baltimore employee since 1978, Patti was named Director of Employment Services in 2006. In that role, she has realigned the entire case management system, maximizing opportunities available to all day and employment services participants. Patti also manages large state contracts, as well as the licensing visits and inspections that take place annually.
- **JoLynn Osmeyer** and **Nina Lasorte** were named Employees of the Year. JoLynn has played an instrumental role in the success of The Arc's new purchase order system, while successfully implementing the Finance Department's new fixed asset software. Nina has worked with the Thoms-Chesley family and their daughter, Victoria, for nearly three years, while juggling the demands of three part-time jobs and college courses.
- **Tammy Salkever**, The Arc's front desk receptionist, won the Outstanding Supported Employee Award, presented to the individual supported by The Arc of Baltimore whose performance has most improved as demonstrated by increases in productivity, acquisition of new skills, and improvement of work habits. Tammy projects a helpful and professional image with all callers and visitors, manages the busy and often distracting office area, has knowledge of all Arc programs, and knows the organization's security procedures.

- **David Hoffnagle** was the recipient of the Community Connection Award in memory of Selma Greenfeld, presented to the staff person who fosters opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to make friends and build relationships in the larger community. David began taking his Landscape crew to blood drives at The Arc's main offices five years ago. Today, dozens of Landscape and other workers are providing life-saving blood to the community in which they live. David also has spent countless hours of his own time giving workers opportunities to experience activities and events – including a local Habitat for Humanity project – which they would not have had without his support.
- **James Kearney** received the Helping Hands Award. As an Arc van driver, James knows and cares for literally hundreds of individuals supported by The Arc. Participants in Helping Hands have even more opportunity to know and care for James since he picks up members from the Hillendale Bowling Alley, brings them to meetings, and then drives them home.

“Each of these individuals has gone above and beyond the usual job duties to show their Care, compassion, and dedication to both The Arc and individuals with developmental disabilities,” says Stephen Morgan, Executive Director of The Arc of Baltimore. “We are truly privileged to have such outstanding employees.”

Awards were presented to the recipients by the Annual Meeting host, WMAR-ABC 2 News Anchor Jamie Costello.

Dedicated to helping individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their greatest potential since 1949, The Arc of Baltimore serves approximately 3,000 Baltimore City and Baltimore County residents with developmental disabilities and their families.

As one of the nation's largest and most respected organizations of its kind, The Arc of Baltimore is an indispensable resource, providing vocational training, residential services, supported employment, and other programs and services. For more information, visit website at www.arcofbaltimore.org or call 410-296-2272.

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