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ARC OF BALTIMORE HONORS CROWNE PLAZA, OTHER AREA ORGANIZATIONS AT ANNUAL MEETING

BALTIMORE, MD (5/12/08) --- The Crowne Plaza Baltimore in Timonium, Maryland, the Baltimore Business Journal, and the Mitchell Wiedefeld Funeral Home were among the area businesses and organizations recognized by The Arc of Baltimore at the organization's Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony, held May 7.

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

- **Crowne Plaza Baltimore** was honored by The Arc of Baltimore as Employer of the Year, presented annually to an area business that provides employment opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities. The Crowne Plaza hired its first individual with developmental disabilities in 2000. Impressed with that employee's strong work ethic and the coaching and support by Arc staff, the hotel now employs three Arc-supported individuals – one in housekeeping and two in food and beverage. The hotel's management and staff provide a natural support network for these individuals and embrace the principles of community employment and integration.
- **The Baltimore Business Journal** received The Arc's Public Service Award, presented to organizations in the public eye which make special efforts to increase understanding of – or advocate for – individuals with developmental disabilities. The Business Journal co-presents The Arc of Baltimore's annual Employers of Distinction awards program, which is co-hosted by Publisher John Dinkel. The weekly business newspaper also sponsors The Arc's annual Celebrity Golf Tournament.
- **St. Matthew Catholic Church** and **Mitchell Wiedefeld Funeral Home** were recipients of The Arc's Special Appreciation Award. St. Matthew's partners with The Arc to present Parents' Day Out, allowing parents with developmentally disabled children and their non-disabled siblings to leave their children for a full, four-hour morning so that the parents have time to themselves to spend as they need. Mitchell Wiedefeld has provided funeral arrangements at a reduced cost for supported individuals whenever there is a need. In doing so, Mitchell Wiedefeld has always treated all involved with the human dignity and concern that they deserve.

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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