

Media Release

08/31/10 – ARCA Receives \$98,013.50 from Mayor and First Lady’s Charity Gala

<http://www.ARCASocialEnterprise.org>

CONTACT(s):

Michele Cody, ARCA Foundation Development Director at (505) 332-6803 or Elaine Solimon, ARCA President and CEO at (505) 332-6805

ARCA’s Social Enterprise Program Receives Community Support

ARCA’s Innovative Job Creation Program Receives \$98,000 from Mayor and First Lady’s 2010 Charity Gala

Albuquerque, NM – When Jim Douglas, ARCA Organics Division Director, escorted Rosie Greenier, ARCA services recipient, down the red carpet at the 2010 Mayor and First Lady’s Charity Gala, he never imagined the reception they would receive. Rosie, dressed in a beautiful blue taffeta gown, smiled at the 1,300 people in the room and waved. Applause, and hundreds of beautiful smiles, answered her.

“ARCA submitted a grant application for our new Social Enterprise program,” said Elaine Solimon, President and CEO, ARCA. “Our dream is to continue providing platinum standard services for as long as the need in our community

exists. About a year ago the ARCA Foundation Board of Directors suggested we expand our entrepreneurial opportunities at ARCA Organics and our Copy Center to help reduce our dependency on government funding. It would provide increased vocational opportunities for the individuals in our care and generate enough income to help with funding shortages. The money we received from the 2010 Gala will enable us to upgrade and expand our equipment...buy a tractor, more seeds and tools, a color copier. It is a dream come true!"

"We've met many of the individuals ARCA serves," said Maria Berry. "People are happy and proud to give back to our community in any way they can. Rosie and her brother, Freddie, both attended the Gala. Other guests gathered at their table all evening. They were an inspiration. I am very proud of the work everyone involved with the Gala did to make it such a success for the four exemplary community agencies who benefitted from the evening."

John Garcia, City of Albuquerque, Economic Development Director, emceed a special live auction of "Honorary Vegetable Patch Ownership" to benefit ARCA Organics. On September 25th, ARCA will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at their Scanlon Farm in Corrales to commemorate the eight donors who each contributed \$4,000 and the Frank D. Gorham, Jr. and Marie K. Gorham Charitable Foundation, whose challenge match of \$25,000 brought the live auction total to \$57,000.

"Cathy and I wanted to be part of the Vegetable Patch auction," said Sherman McCorkle, President and Chief Executive Officer of Technology Ventures Corporation. "We feel honored to invest in the special skills and talents of folks

receiving services from ARCA, and know they will, in turn, nurture our community at large.”

“This grant is empowering hundreds of New Mexicans with developmental disabilities to lead contributory lives,” said Michele Cody, Development Director, ARCA Foundation. “This experience was an example of what makes Albuquerque a unique and strong community. We take care of one another. We value people’s gifts and lend support when challenges arise.”

The honorary vegetable patch winners were Mayor and First Lady Berry, Paul and Connie Cassidy, Pat and Bob Collawn, Diane Fisher, Jim and Carol Hinton, Kelly and Rocky Lawrence, Sherman and Cathy McCorkle and Ray and Roberta Zamora.

###

ARCA is a nonprofit organization founded in 1957 by a group of Albuquerque families who had children with developmental disabilities. The mission of ARCA has remained consistent for 53 years: opening doors for people with developmental disabilities to be valued members of our community. For more information, please call Michele Cody at 505-332-6803 or visit our web site at www.ARCASOpeningDoors.org.