

Media Release

08/12/09 – Corrales Resident Robert Scanlon and Rio Rancho's Steve Mackie Sponsor ARCA's 1st Annual Bowl-a-Thon

<http://www.ARCASmilingDoors.org>

CONTACT(s):

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

Bowl-a-Thon to Raise Funds for ARCA Turns into Smile-a-Thon

ARCA Bowl-a-Thon Scores Fun and Funds

Albuquerque, NM – Hundreds of ARCA individuals served, employees, family, friends, volunteers and community members came together to enjoy the festivities at the Bob Scanlon/Steve Mackie 1st Annual ARCA Bowl-a-Thon at Rio Rancho's TenPins and More. "We are still receiving pledge payments," said Michele Cody, ARCA Foundation Development Director, "but just this week crossed the \$40,000 mark for pledges collected from the event!"

Most importantly, each person, whether a champion of strikes or title holder of the most gutter balls, came armed with infectious smiles that quickly spread among the crowd. "The joy in the room was palpable," said Elaine Solimon, ARCA Executive Director. "Next year, we may have to rename it the ARCA Smile-a-Thon!"

Robert (Bob) Scanlon, an avid bowler, laid out the parameters of the event and underwrote all the expenses. "I would see folks from ARCA bowling and be profoundly touched by their smiles. Joy seemed to emanate from them," said Scanlon. "I wanted to share in that joy and at the same time help raise much needed funding for ARCA programs."

Individuals served by ARCA are already asking about dates for the 2nd Annual event. Mike Dushi, who receives services from ARCA, bowled a 197, one of the high scorers of the day. "Next year I'm going to collect pledges per pin," said Mike. "I'll definitely score over 200!"

"I'm thrilled my investment in this ARCA event was so well leveraged," said Scanlon, "but, it was the connections made among the participants that were priceless. There were no barriers, just mutual acceptance and respect. It was a glorious day that I am humbled to have been a part of."

###

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 51 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.ARCAOpeningDoors.org.