

Media Release

08/10/09 – First Community Bank Invites Rolley Longley, ARCA Services Recipient, to Throw Opening Pitch at Isotopes Game

<http://www.ARCAOpeningDoors.org>

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Rolley Longley Throws Opening Pitch Straight over Home Plate

First Community Bank Invests in Albuquerquean's Dream

Albuquerque, NM – Rolley Longley is a sports enthusiast and Albuquerque's Number 1 Isotopes fan. He has been the assistant coach for the West Mesa, St. Pius X and Del Norte softball teams and was recently named honorary assistant coach for the New Mexico Thunderbirds. Saturday night, Patrick Dee accompanied Rolley to the pitcher's mound where he threw the opening pitch at the Isotopes vs. Portland Beavers game. Rolley has received services from ARCA for over 20 years.

"People who receive services from ARCA contribute to our community in so many ways," said Patrick Dee, President and Chief Operating Officer of First Community Bank. "Despite living with a variety of disabilities, they are excited and proud to work hard at a job or spend countless hours volunteering with local civic, educational, religious and social services organizations."

When Rolley let the ball fly Saturday night, it went straight over home plate into the catcher's glove. The reaction of the crowded stadium made it clear -- the pitch was good.

"We were thrilled to give Rolley this opportunity," said Dee. "It was great fun to be out on the mound with him. He's got a pretty good arm and probably threw a better pitch than I ever have."

"ARCA values our partnership with First Community Bank on so many levels," said Elaine Solimon, Executive Director, ARCA. "In January, the Bank announced a \$75,000 community-wide challenge toward our Endowment; it was another example of their ongoing commitment to invest in the quality of life of all members of our community."

"Giving Rolley the opportunity to realize a dream is priceless and speaks to the quality of the people who are First Community Bank," said Solimon.

“Our community partnerships create opportunities; opportunities you or I might take for granted like living in a safe neighborhood, earning a paycheck, establishing friendships and building self esteem by learning to read or developing new job skills,” said Michele Cody, ARCA Foundation Development Director. “The chance to live a meaningful, joyful life is possible because of community partnerships.”

“I don’t pitch very often because I usually play Center Field,” said Rolley. “It was really fun. I didn’t know I was going to meet Orbit...I got to keep the ball I threw and Orbit autographed it!”

The ARCA Foundation is establishing a \$1,500,000 Endowment Fund to assure its services remain available in perpetuity.

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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.