

Media Release

08/11/2009 - Target Corporation Awards ARCA \$3,000 Grant

<http://www.ARCASupport.org>

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ARCA Receives \$3,000 Grant from Target Corporation in Support of Literacy

Little Ones Learning Literacy Skills from Individuals Served by ARCA

Albuquerque, NM – For six years, ARCA Readers – adults with developmental disabilities served by ARCA – have been reading stories to 500 pre-school children a year in nine local Head Start programs. At the end of each story hour, which is conducted in both English and sign language, each child receives a copy of the storybook. This is often the first and only book the child owns.

The program is mutually beneficial. This year's Head Start teachers are thrilled that the children talk at home about what they learn during story hour and proudly read their parents their new books. For ARCA, the activities open doors to children learning about the strengths and contributions of people with disabilities.

When Target Corporation heard about the extraordinary partnership between ARCA and Head Start, they decided to commit \$3,000 from their Community Outreach program to support the program. Target believes in the power of partnerships to foster creativity and learning and strengthen communities. Since 1946, Target has given 5% of their income back to the communities they serve. That equates to \$3 million each and every week.

"ARCA's partnership with Head Start is important for many reasons," said Elaine Solimon, ARCA Executive Director. "Our Story Hours are an opportunity for little ones to learn about people with developmental disabilities in such a positive way. It is a chance for our cherished individuals to spend time in a teaching role, giving back to our community in a meaningful way. We are thrilled to receive this generous support from Target."

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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 505-332-6803 or visit our web site at www.ARCASOpeningDoors.org.