

Media Release

4/9/2010 – Giving Back Shows Positive Returns

<http://www.ARCASOpeningDoors.org>

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A Time to Give Back in Albuquerque

Tax Season is a Time for Community Engagement at ARCA

Albuquerque, NM –Tax refunds can feel like “found money,” affording us little extravagances to perk up our lives. But for very low income citizens, a refund can mean the opportunity to purchase everyday necessities. Individuals with developmental disabilities in ARCA’s care have this opportunity because of the generosity of some strong community partners.

Over two weekends in March, 44 students from the Anderson School of Management’s Beta Alpha Psi fraternity assisted in the preparation of 253 personal tax returns for citizens served by ARCA, for a total refund of almost \$48,000.

“100% of the individuals with developmental disabilities receiving services from ARCA qualify as low-income under New Mexico poverty level guidelines for public assistance,” said Elaine Solimon, ARCA Executive Director. “A tax refund can

give someone greater independence in making a personal purchase, often something as simple as a new pair of shoes or even a special Mother's Day gift."

Beta Alpha Psi students, under the leadership of Dr. Craig White, have been volunteering their time to assist in the preparation of tax returns for ARCA individuals for over 12 years. "Beta Alpha Psi's collaboration with ARCA allows students a great opportunity to apply the material they are learning in class by helping fellow members of the Albuquerque community," said Dr. White. "ARCA's organization of the process ensures a very large number of returns are completed in a short period of time."

According to Janice Moen, ARCA Finance Director, ""The Beta Alpha Psi students experience the joy of giving back to the community as well as gain real life experience in assisting with the preparation of tax returns. This event received national recognition at the National Beta Alpha Psi conference last year and will be presented again in 2010."

REDW and Meyners + Company employees have volunteered to assist the students with the preparation of the tax returns since 2009. "Community service is a mainstay of REDW's culture," said REDW's Managing Principal Ron Rivera. "Our longstanding tradition of public service and community involvement is a source of pride, personal satisfaction and professional growth for all our team members. A testament to our commitment is the support REDW members Susan Hansen, Lorie Carr, Ashley Floyd, Nicole Hinze, Laurel Shelton and Halie Garcia provided to ARCA. Their unwavering dedication to advance ARCA's mission and the people they serve is a reflection of the culture we foster in our firm."

“Everything we do at Meyners + Company involves our community—our clients, employees and vendors all live together as neighbors,” said Bruce Malott, Managing Principal of Meyners + Company, LLC. “It is incumbent on each of us to take care of one another and make sure our community thrives. We welcome the opportunity to help our neighbors at ARCA.”

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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 53 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.ARCAOpeningDoors.org.