



8138 Mar Vista Court
Riverside, CA 92504
(P) 951/688-5141
(F) 951/688-7207

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 31, 2008

Contact:

Mark Cloud, Director of Communication
(951) 688-5141
mcloud@arcriderside.org

The Arc of Riverside County Employee Receives Prestigious Fair Housing Award

Riverside, CA – The Arc of Riverside County Community Relations Manager Jeanne Ramirez received a Champion for Justice Award from the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County. Ramirez received the award at the 7th Annual Champions for Justice Awards Banquet, which was held Thursday, April 3 at the Riverside Convention Center.

This year, the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County selected a total of seven award recipients, including Ramirez, based on their significant contributions to the community.

Likely a factor in the Council's selection of Ramirez is her dedication to others, which she wants to continue, "I feel very honored to be recognized - even my later years in life I want to continue making a difference in the lives of others throughout the Inland Empire and beyond," said Ramirez.

Ramirez's work with the Arc of The Arc of Riverside County, a nonprofit organization that provides supports and services for adults with developmental disabilities, includes raising awareness and funds for the organization and its Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders education and prevention efforts, called The NineZero Project.

Ramirez has become an effective advocate for the agency's NineZero Project, which seeks to teach the next generation of parents about the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy. The NineZero Project – which stands for Nine months, Zero alcohol – includes a "coffee for a cause" effort that raises awareness and funds for the Project through the sale of gourmet NineZero Coffee. Jeanne has donated her own full-service coffee cart to the Project, which she operates

throughout the Inland Empire, serving delicious coffee drinks. Jeanne is also busy coordinating a major fundraising event for the Arc of Riverside County called the NineZero Games, which will feature golf and tennis tournaments, along with other activities, and will benefit the NineZero Project.

While prenatal exposure to alcohol is the number one cause of developmental disabilities in the United States, it is totally preventable. Many children can be spared a lifelong sentence of living with a disability or an irreversible physical or mental condition through education and prevention. County health and social service personnel are seeing many of the problems drinking during pregnancy causes and are involved with Arc Riverside in this county-wide effort as well as their own prevention efforts. Individuals born with prenatal exposure to alcohol represent some of their toughest cases. It follows the burden on taxpayers because of this public health problem is enormous.

Arc Riverside is located at 8138 Mar Vista Court in Riverside, and provides services and advocacy to individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities throughout western Riverside County. To contact Ramirez, call (951) 688-5141 or e-mail her at jramirez@arcriderside.org.

###