

**Media Release****For Immediate Release**

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**Community Foundation's "Joel's Kids" Fund Awards 2005 Grant  
and Holds Golf Tournament**

Frederick, Maryland; August 4, 2005: The Arc of Frederick County receives a \$2500 grant from The Joel A. Stephens Memorial Fund, one of over 480 funds held by The Community Foundation of Frederick County. The grant funds *Take Charge: Life Leadership*, a newly-created training series held on Hood College's campus that provides leadership training for Frederick County youth with developmental disabilities who are preparing to transition from high school to adulthood. The Arc of Frederick County's Executive Director Joanna Pierson explains in the grant proposal, "Take Charge: Life Leadership is innovative; it provides students with developmental disabilities the opportunity to focus intensely on their own personal growth and self development, while at the same time introducing the students to shared challenges and approaches, including individual and group projects and advocacy. The primary goal of the project is to help each student to think about and clearly identify goals for the future that are important to him or to her, to map out a plan to get there, and to implement the plan with peer and professional support in an ongoing way."

Mark Zeigler of the Frederick Keys established The Joel A. Stephens Memorial Fund, known as "Joel's Kids," with the Community Foundation to honor the memory of Joel Stephens, a minor league outfielder for the Baltimore Orioles who succumbed to colon cancer in September of 1998 at the age of 22. While in remission, Joel wanted "one more professional at bat" and made an unsuccessful attempt to return to baseball with the Frederick Keys at Harry Grove Stadium during the summer of 1998. Joel's love for children, particularly those with health-related issues, disabilities, difficult home situations, or suffering a loss, inspired the creation of the memorial fund. Annual "Joel's Kids" grants from the fund are awarded to a nonprofit organization serving Frederick County youth or young adults 22 years of age and younger or a religious organization in need of funding for non-sectarian activities benefiting youth activities. Funds can be used for one-time purchases, capital expenditures, start-up costs for programs in existence less than six months, purchases related to the provision of healthcare—including physical and mental health—for youth and young adults 22 years of age and younger, or the fulfillment of wishes of youth and young adults in the same age range.

The Arc of Frederick County is the most recent "Joel's Kids" grant recipient selected through a competitive application and screening process, joining previous grantees Challenge Little League, Myersville Junior Baseball League and Thurmont Little League. The organization awarded the grant designates two of its youth beneficiaries as "Joel's Kids," who will participate in special events with the Frederick Keys. The Arc of

Frederick County will be honored at the August 26, 2005 Frederick Keys game at Harry Grove Stadium, where Sandy Kaas and Matthew Lewis, both of Frederick, will be recognized as the 2005 “Joel’s Kids.”

Individual donations as well as proceeds from annual golf tournaments, sponsored by SunTrust Bank, benefit The Joel A. Stephens Memorial Fund and make grant funding possible. The 10th Annual Frederick Keys/SunTrust Charity Golf Classic is scheduled for August 11, 2005 at Hollow Creek Golf Course in Middletown. Call Mark Zeigler at 301.815.9915 or visit [www.joelskids.org](http://www.joelskids.org) for information on registering for the golf tournament or being a sponsor.

Tax-deductible contributions by businesses or individuals to The Joel A. Stephens Memorial Fund are accepted in any amount at any time. Checks may be made payable to and sent to The Community Foundation of Frederick County, 312 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701, with “Joel’s Kids” inserted in the check’s memo line. Donations may also be made for the fund using Visa or MasterCard by calling the Community Foundation at 301.695.7660.

Since 1986, the Community Foundation has worked with individuals, families, businesses, and civic organizations to set up charitable funds that enhance the local quality of life by awarding grants and scholarships. To date, more than \$10 million has been provided in grants and scholarships to a range of charitable causes. Visit [www.cffredco.org](http://www.cffredco.org) to learn more about how the Community Foundation is the leading resource for information and strategies for making charitable dreams come true.

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*Caption: Joel’s Kids founder Mark Zeigler of the Frederick Keys joins Community Foundation Trustee Kate Costlow to present the Joel’s Kids grant to The Arc of Frederick County, represented by Ginny Panayotov, with the 2005 Joel’s Kids Matthew Lewis and Sandy Kaas.*