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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEWIDE POSTER CONTEST TEACHING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS “TOGETHER WE’RE BETTER” ANNOUNCED TO CELEBRATE MARYLAND’S DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The annual “Together We’re Better” poster contest encourages Maryland elementary schools to celebrate the diverse abilities of all students and highlight the importance of providing equal opportunities for children with disabilities. The contest is conducted by The Arc Maryland, Inc. and sponsored in partnership by the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Disabilities, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, and Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education. Students in grades K-5 are invited to create class posters to reflect upon the diverse abilities of all students, to raise awareness of the value and importance of inclusion and to promote awareness of disabilities.

The poster contest and awareness activities will enhance school-wide awareness of inclusive practices while engaging students in activities that create a sense of caring and community. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate in a meaningful way with one another while reflecting on what they have learned during the campaign.

The “Together We’re Better” Awareness Campaign will kick-off October 1 to celebrate Maryland’s Disability History and Awareness Month. The contest deadline for receiving entries is December 1. The Arc Maryland is planning a series of events to celebrate “Together We’re Better” and National Inclusive Schools Week in December. Posters will be voted on by a panel of representatives from participating state agencies and The Arc Maryland. Youth with disabilities will assist in judging. To enable community participation in the awareness campaign, the public will be able to vote for the “People’s Choice Award” through social media channels.

Details are available on The Arc Maryland’s website: www.thearcmd.org. The campaign has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TogetherWereBetter.

Achieve with us.