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*For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*

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## **Starbelly Band Plays Gig on the Golf Course** **Local Band Hosts 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament To Benefit The Arc**

[Aberdeen]--The local band, Starbelly (*a Baltimore-based power pop band*) raised \$8,000 to benefit The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region at their 9<sup>th</sup> annual charity golf tournament on July 29<sup>th</sup> at Ruggles Golf Course. The band members donated their time and music to over 130 golfers including many players who work for tenant activities on APG.

Joseph McKeever, an employee with the U.S. Army Evaluation Center, and his close friend, Dennis Schocket, a local musician from the band, Starbelly, organized the first charity golf tournament for The Arc in 2003, and since then, the event has morphed into an annual fundraiser that takes place every July and has netted \$29,625 to date. McKeever does much of the logistical legwork to pull together each annual tournament and Schocket gets many of the golfers to participate in the tournament in addition to providing musical entertainment for tournament participants.

"We wanted to find something that was local, where all the money stayed right here in the area," McKeever said of the tournament genesis. As it turned out, he and Schocket were invited to one of the agency's open-houses and were then convinced that The Arc was an organization they had to support. "They gave us the whole tour, and we met a lot of the people who get services there," McKeever recalled. "It's a fantastic organization for giving these people a better life." The tournament appears to run smoothly because of the work McKeever, Schocket and the volunteers put into it well ahead of tournament time.

Special thanks to the 2011 Starbelly Golf Tournament Sponsors:

Applebees; Boomers Catering; Broomworks Embroidery; Cavanagh's Irish Pub; Country Club Specialties; Cold Stone Creamery; Cavanagh Services Group; Fleming Financial; John and Stefanie Jackson; Tom and Valerie Kordonski; Harry and Rhoula Monios; Mark and Brenda Motes; MWOA; NEMOA; Chris and Rich Robinson; Ruggles Golf Course; Brett and Kathy Riley; Smyth Jewelers; T2S; Zub Zub Inc

For more information on Starbelly band or the golf tournament, contact Joe McKeever at [starbellymusic@aol.com](mailto:starbellymusic@aol.com) or visit the Starbelly Web site, [www.starbellygolf.com](http://www.starbellygolf.com).

Captions: From left to right: Joe McKeever, Starbelly Golf Tournament Coordinator; Starbelly Band performs at the awards dinner; Joe McKeever, Starbelly Golf Tournament Coordinator, presents check to Shawn Kros, Executive Director, The Arc

*The Arc offers a wide variety of services to individuals with developmental disabilities in Harford, Cecil, and Kent counties, both children and adults, to make informed choices with their lifestyles, vocations, education and recreational pursuits, and to assure stable and nurturing lives among their families and friends.*