

Chamber honors two area nonprofits

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BEACON for Adult Literacy and The Joe 15 Team Inc. were the recipients of the 2010 Agnes L. Colgan Community Service Awards presented by the Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce earlier this week.

Deborah Abbott, executive director of BEACON, accepted the award on behalf of the organization, as did Debbie Page-Maples, president of The Joe 15 Team Inc.

Each of the two received a check for \$1,000, a plaque with their names engraved on it and a second plaque in the chamber's office.

The presentations were made during the 21st annual Community Showcase at the Best Western Battlefield Inn.

"Welcome to our showcase in which we highlight our member nonprofits. The chamber is proud to have 140 nonprofit organizations. Thirty-three nonprofits were nominated for the awards," said Molly B. Grove, chairman.

Making the presentation to the winners was Todd Hewitt with Cardinal Bank, sponsors of the award, who said, "We are thrilled to be the sponsorship of the awards and it gives me great pleasure to announce the winners of the awards."

Abbot said she was "shocked" that her organization was selected for the award considering how many other worthy groups were nominated. She said the funds will be used to purchase classroom textbooks.

BEACON is a free program for adults that offers tutoring for basic literacy, GED (high school equivalency) and English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Page-Maples said she was "thrilled and sur-



Pictured at the 21st annual Community Showcase sponsored by the Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce are Molly Grove, left, chairman, Todd Hewitt, Debbie Page-Maples, Deborah Abbott, Mary Finnigan and Debbie Jones, president. {Bennie Scarton Jr./News & Messenger}

prised" by the award. The organization, named after Joe Christopher Page who was fatally shot at a party in February 2008, provides many types of community service.

Mary Finnigan, daughter of Agnes Colgan, spoke on behalf of the family, saying "she carried very much about community service ... and we thank you very much for naming the award in her honor."

Proceeds for the awards came from the Cuisine de Commerce Luncheon the chamber hosted in November.

"Congratulations to both our winners and

thank you to all of our fine nonprofit organizations for the wonderful work they do in the community and for today's exhibitors, many of whom were nominees," said Grove.

Grove said the chamber is now accepting nominations for the Excellence in Business Awards and that March 19 is the deadline to register to audition for the "Chamber's Got Talent" show. The Polar Bear Scramble will be March 10 at the Evergreen Country Club.

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