

And the Winner Is ...

On Tuesday, February 23rd, members of the Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce gathered in the newly renovated **Best Western Battlefield Inn** for the 22nd annual Community Showcase Luncheon sponsored by **Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC)**. Exhibit tables lined the walls of the ballroom, displaying information about 23 different local not-for-profit organizations, many of them having been nominated for the first-ever Agnes L. Colgan Community Service Awards. Exhibitors took the opportunity to tell attendees about the work being done in through their organizations and upcoming events.

The Greater Chamber was excited to present the first Agnes L. Colgan Community Service Awards, sponsored by **Cardinal Bank**, to two deserving organizations. Awards are given out in the categories of Health & Human Services and Arts & Education. Recognition for all of their hard work in

making our community great is a big part of this honor, along with the \$1,000 prize that accompanies each of the awards.

In the category of Arts & Education, this year's recipient was **BEACON for Adult Literacy**. Accepting the award was Executive Director Deborah Abbott. BEACON provides a spectrum of free adult education programs, customized and individualized to meet the special needs of the immigrant populations they serve. They provide classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), GED preparation, basic literacy in Math, English and Reading, Citizenship Preparation and Job Readiness classes including a course that prepares foreign-born students for entry-level jobs in the high-growth industry of healthcare. Over the last year, more than 400 adults participated in BEACON's programs and over 90% of those adults were women with school-age children. As a result it is estimated that the lives of more than 800 children have benefited from their parents



Chamber Chair Molly Grove, George Mason University-Prince William Campus and Todd Hewitt, Executive VP of Cardinal Bank (2010 Agnes Colgan Community Service Award Sponsors) pose with winners Debbie-Page-Maples (center left), President of the Joe 15 Team, Inc. and Deborah Abbott (center right), Executive Director of BEACON for Adult Literacy. At right are Mary Finnigan, daughter of the late Agnes Colgan and Debbie Jones, President of the Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce.

(Staff photo)

participation in BEACON programs this *past year*. *Forty-two percent* of BEACON's adult students this year reported that they are now able to read to their children, significantly improving their capacity for involvement in their children's educational development.

In the category of Health & Human Services, the recipient was **The Joe 15 Team, Inc.**, represented by Founder and President

Debbie Page-Maples. The Joe 15 Team, Inc. meets needs throughout Prince William County whenever and wherever they see them. This all-volunteer organization works with lonely senior citizens to provide them with companionship and the enjoyment of activities with younger people. Their support of **SERVE**, a division of **Northern Virginia Family Services** and **Transitional Housing**

BARN, Inc. meets a growing need in our community for aid to the homeless and women in need of shelter. In addition to this, both the school-age children and the young adult volunteers for The Joe 15 Team, Inc. benefit by seeing community service as an alternative to drugs, alcohol and crime. For more information please visit www.pwcgmcc.org, click on News & Events in the top right corner, and then click on *Agnes Colgan Award*.