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## *Richard J. O'Brien Foundation*



Plainview, New York -- Richard O'Brien was always there for The Association for Children with Down Syndrome, whether it was serving as a banker working to get them the funding necessary to finance their group homes or supporting the organization's golf fundraisers.

"We had a long-term relationship with Rich, he is someone we could always depend on," said Lori Schaefer, development associate with ACDS.

That legacy of giving continues, even after his untimely death in September of 2010. On February 16, The Richard J. O'Brien Foundation presented a \$30,000 check to ACDS to help the organization continue its mission of serving those with Down syndrome and other severe developmental disabilities.

"We don't get big donations like this. Most are individual donations of \$10, \$100, maybe \$1,000, for us, this is huge. This will help us bridge the gap we have with budget cuts in state funding that we rely on," said Schaefer.

ACDS dedicated its 2011 annual golf outing to his memory.

ACDS was established more than 40 years ago and serves over 700 individuals affected by Down syndrome and other severe developmental disabilities. ACDS is a lifetime services agency that serves families of individuals with a wide range of disabilities from before birth until late adulthood. Programs are delivered in a variety of settings, including its educational center in Plainview, in the family's homes, in community based programs and in ACDS' Individualized Residential Alternative group homes (IRAs).

The Richard J. O'Brien Foundation was formed by his family and friends to continue to support charities focusing on children in need of special care and bereavement counseling and other services. The Foundation also supports organizations dealing with children's health issues and diseases and provides financial donations to benefit individuals and families who have lost a parent.