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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Use

Four to be Honored at The Arc Mid-South's Gala on Oct. 13

FedEx executive Shannon Brown, WMC-TV Chief Meteorologist Ron Childers, Probate Judge Kathleen Gomes, and cityCURRENT CEO Jeremy Park will receive community recognition awards when The Arc Mid-South holds its 23rd Annual Awards and Benefit Gala on Saturday, Oct. 13.

“All four honorees exemplify our gala theme this year, ‘Strengthening The Arc Mid-South Through Superheroes,’ ” said Carlene Leaper, executive director. “Their dedication to our community and partnership with The Arc Mid-South has helped us achieve significant milestones on behalf of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

The event, which begins at 6 p.m. at Memphis Botanic Garden, will feature silent and live auctions, musical entertainment, hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. Childers will emcee. Tickets, which cost \$75, are available at www.thearc-midsouth.org and by calling 901.327.2473.

Brown is the Senior Vice President of Air, Ground & Freight Services and Chief Diversity Officer for FedEx Express. He is a director of BancorpSouth, Inc., serves on the Western Governors University’s Advisory Board and boards of the local Boys and Girls Club, Memphis in May, University of Denver’s Intermodal Transportation Institute and University of Kansas’ Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics. Brown has been named to Black Enterprise magazine’s lists of “100 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America” and “Top Executives in Corporate Diversity,” as well as Savoy magazine’s “Top 100 Most Influential Executives in Corporate America.”

A native Memphian and second generation Mexican-American, Childers holds a Certificate of Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University. He has received an Emmy Award for professional excellence and, in 2011, was named Humanitarian of The Year by Diversity Memphis for civic and charitable work.

Gomes, who has practiced law for over 35 years, was appointed judge for Shelby County Probate Court, Division I, in 2013. In 2018, she was named among the 12 Most Outstanding Women in

the Memphis Judicial System by the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship. Gomes serves on The Arc Mid-South's Board of Directors and as a Cantor at Church of the Holy Spirit.

Park transformed cityCURRENT, formerly known as the Lipscomb Pitts Breakfast Club, from a small, inward-focused business-networking group into a powerful team of businesses now outward-focused on making a difference philanthropically. He writes the weekly "Giving Back" column that appears in The Commercial Appeal, hosts the CityCURRENT radio show on the Cumulus Media Memphis network and the monthly TV series "The Spark" that appears on WKNO-TV. Park has been recognized by Memphis Business Journal as a "Top 40 under 40" and featured in Fortune and Forbes magazines.

Founded in 1950, the Arc Mid-South is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit agency that provides family support and advocacy, career development and job placement services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as autism. The agency was instrumental in starting the first special education classes in Memphis and Shelby County schools as well as group homes and the Adult Activity Center now known as Shelby Residential and Vocational Services (SRVS).

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