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**Art Van Furniture Awards \$1 Million Dollars to
50 Charities in 50 Hours
*5 Events Held to Celebrate Charities throughout Michigan***

Warren, Mich., August 5, 2009, 11:00 a.m. – The Art Van Furniture management team traveled 500 miles in 50 hours to award \$1 million to 50 charities around the State of Michigan, as part of the “Art Van Million Dollar Charity Challenge”. This Challenge is part of the year-long celebration of Art Van Furniture’s 50th Anniversary. From its first store in 1959 to its 30 stores and over 2,500 employees today, Art Van Furniture continues its long tradition of giving back to the communities of Michigan.

Art Van Furniture Chairman and Founder Art Van Elslander and President Gary Van Elslander hosted events in Warren, Flint, Grand Rapids, Traverse City and Lansing from Monday morning through Wednesday morning, announcing the organizations which will receive these grants and asking others to help support these important Michigan-based non-profits that focus on children, health and human services programs. The selected charities received grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 each.

“If you’re fortunate enough to be as successful as we have been, then I believe it is your responsibility to give back,” said Art Van Elslander, “The Art Van Million Dollar Charity Challenge will benefit 50 remarkable and deserving organizations to help them continue their outstanding work and improve the lives of people across our state. We designed these grants as challenge gifts in order to encourage others to donate and maximize fundraising opportunities.”

The 50th Anniversary celebrations continue for Art Van Furniture with Gala Fundraising Events scheduled for October to benefit important regional medical centers. Other local events will be held for staff members and customers at all Art Van Furniture stores throughout October, and a 1959 Corvette convertible is being given away online through the ArtVan.com website.

The recipients of the Art Van Million Dollar Charity Challenge are:

Southeast Michigan

Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan
Child Abuse & Neglect Council of Oakland
County
Dawn Farm
Families Against Narcotics
Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry
For The Kids Foundation
Forgotten Harvest
Friendship Circle

Judson Center, Inc.
North Oakland SCAMP Funding Corporation
Northeast Guidance Center
Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit
Penrickton Center for Blind Children
Reaching Higher
Seedlings Braille Books for Children
Special Dreams Farm
Starfish Family Services
The ALS Association, Michigan Chapter

The Rainbow Connection
The Restore Foundation
Therapeutic Riding, Inc.
United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit
(UCP/Detroit)
Variety, The Children's Charity
Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan
Flint / Saginaw / Bay City / Midland
Child Abuse Prevention Council of Shiawassee
County
City Rescue Mission of Saginaw, Inc.
CORY Place, Inc.
Hurley Foundation
Partnership Center
West Michigan
Benjamin's Hope
Catholic Family Services
Community Advocates for Persons with
Developmental Disabilities
Hospice of Michigan
Hospice of Muskegon County, Inc. (DBA Harbor
Hospice)

Kids Food Basket
Mecosta County Senior Center
Northern Michigan
Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan
Munson Healthcare Regional Foundation
Otsego Memorial Hospital Foundation
Women's Resource Center for the Grand
Traverse Area
Mid Michigan and Statewide
Alzheimers Disease and Related Disorders
Association, Inc.
Children's Leukemia Foundation of MI
Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse &
Neglect
E.V.E., Inc.
Ele's Place, Inc.
Leader Dogs for the Blind
Livingston Area Council Against Spouse
Abuse, Inc. (LACASA)
Michigan AIDS Coalition
SIREN/Eaton Shelter, Inc.
The Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation

About Art Van Furniture

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, Art Van Furniture is Michigan's largest furniture retailer and America's largest independent furniture retailer, operating 30 stores in 29 communities throughout Michigan, a full service e-commerce website plus a new freestanding bedding store in Canton Michigan, 'Art Van Pure Sleep'. The company was recently named "2009 Furniture Retailer of the Year" by *Furniture Today*. The company is family-owned and headquartered in Warren, Michigan. For more information, visit artvan.com.

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Photos and artwork are available for download at:

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