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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Partnership Funds Arts Programs to Improve Health
Johnson & Johnson/Society for the Arts in Healthcare Announce 2009 Grants

WASHINGTON, DC, March 17, 2009 – Today, the Johnson & Johnson/Society for the Arts in Healthcare partnership announced the 2009 award recipients of its annual grant program, designed to engage community healthcare workers, caregivers, families and artists in the practice of arts in healthcare to increase community support, involvement and leadership in the public health arena. Arts in healthcare is a diverse, multidisciplinary field that applies a multitude of art forms to a wide variety of healthcare settings for therapeutic, educational or recreational purposes. Literary, performing and visual arts and design create a better healthcare experience for patients, families and caregivers.

Grants were awarded to nine organizations in the U.S. and Canada to support innovative model programs that use art to advance healing and preventative health. Chosen from more than 320 proposals, the awards represent innovative work in visual art, drama, film, music and writing in healthcare.

The grant focuses exclusively on programs with demonstrated evidence of prior success, strong partnerships and artistic excellence. Awardees replicate their evidence-based models in communities across the U.S. and internationally over a three-year grant period. Findings from these programs add to the growing base of research that shows significant benefits when arts are incorporated into healthcare settings.

“Healthcare initiatives that involve partnerships between arts and health professionals are demonstrating real benefits—improving patient outcomes, helping people make connections, and engendering a sense of community,” said Anita Boles, executive director, Society for the Arts in Healthcare. “The Johnson & Johnson/Society for the Arts in Healthcare grants provide an important opportunity for creating strong partnerships to replicate of existing model programs that are advancing the arts in healing. These programs will continue to raise awareness of the potential of the arts to transform the healthcare experience.”

"As the arts are increasingly integrated into health contexts, we are privileged to support nine promising programs that will provide further evidence of the vital connection between creativity and

healing. As a healthcare company, we applaud these organizations for their work in bringing the arts to new populations," said Conrad Person, director, Corporate Contributions, Johnson & Johnson.

The Awardees

From 2001 to 2009, Johnson & Johnson and the Society for the Arts in Healthcare have supported 117 cutting-edge programs. Funding leading models and initiatives in high quality healthcare through the arts, this annual grant opportunity is open to Society for the Arts in Healthcare members.

The 2009 awardees are:

- Center for Health and Learning (Brattleboro, VT) – *The Art of Healing Loss: Support & Renewal for Caregivers and Veterans*
- Music For All Seasons (Scotch Plains, NJ) – *Professional Performances for Hope and Healing in Domestic Violence Shelters*
- STITCHES Women’s Initiative (Macomb, MI) – *Stitches Doll Project*
- The Art of Elysium (Universal City, CA) – *Girl Talk/Yo Lo Tengo Arts-Based Self-Esteem*
- The Louis Armstrong Center for Music & Medicine (New York, NY) – *Music for Advances in Respiration*
- The Madison Symphony Orchestra (Madison, WI) – *Heartstrings*
- The NiteStar Program (New York, NY) – *Our Voices, Our Lives: Theater Project for Adolescents Living with HIV/AIDS*
- Toronto International Film Festival Group (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) – *Reel Comfort*
- The University of Iowa - Arts Share Program (Iowa City, IA) – *The Patient Voice Project*

Additional information on organizations and projects is available at http://thesah.org/template/page.cfm?page_id=580

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About the Society for the Arts in Healthcare

The Society for the Arts in Healthcare is a non-profit 501c3 international organization based in Washington, DC. Founded in 1991, it is dedicated to advancing the arts as integral to healthcare. Funded in part by the National Endowment of the Arts and Johnson & Johnson, the Society for the Arts in Healthcare provides program development support through grants, consultant services and the convening of conferences and symposia to a wide range of arts and healthcare institutions. Over 1,700 Society for the Arts in Healthcare members, including artists and healthcare professionals, serve patients and their families in the US and abroad. For more information, visit www.thesah.org or call 202-299-9770.

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