



FOR: The Douglas Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Douglas Center Debuts “Art From The Heart” Creations at Global Handmade Hope-Park Ridge

Skokie, IL — The Douglas Center has proudly debuted “**Art From The Heart**” Creations at distinguished fair-trade Park Ridge wholesaler/retailer, Global Handmade Hope. Featured in the display are mosaic wall hangings and tabletop pieces, mosaic mirrors and decorative plates. In addition to the mosaics on display, there is a catalog available featuring photographs of art pieces that are also for sale. “**Art From The Heart**” Creations will soon be available on the Global Handmade website.

Global Handmade Hope is a fair trade wholesaler and retailer of home décor, accessories, apparel, ‘kids’ items’ and foods all produced fairly by artisans and farmers from developing countries. What makes Global Handmade Hope different from other Fair Trade outlets is their focus on and direct connection to East Africa. The fair trade store carries many unique textiles, accessories and toys that are made specifically for them. Global Handmade Hope carries items from around the world and unique items created in the USA by social enterprises as well as reaching out to various charities in each country and the community they work in. “Our mission is to promote social justice, help families provide food, shelter, education and access to health care by offering them a place and opportunity to sell their goods” stated Cynthia Glensgard, Owner and Founder of Global Handmade Hope. “We are pleased to have the opportunity to help raise public awareness of all that can be achieved by individuals living with disabilities by showcasing “**Art From The Heart**” Creations.”

“**Art From The Heart**” Creations is a program participant-based business launched by The Douglas Center. This program provides participants with “hands-on” experience in the creation, production and selling of their own products. The product line includes mosaic wall art and mirrors, decorative plates, jewelry and greeting cards. This venture provides program participants living with developmental and physical disabilities the opportunity for the development and training of marketable skills needed for their business while producing products for sale. A portion of the proceeds of these art creations goes directly to the program participant that created it.

The Douglas Center provides day programs for individuals with severe developmental and physical disabilities. The Douglas Center Work Center offers work programs that include light manufacturing, sewing, packaging, assembly, shrink-wrapping, labeling, heat sealing, fulfillment services, etc. by partnering with local manufacturers on work contracts/projects. The center offers pre-vocational training as well as developmental rehabilitation for adults of all ages. The Douglas Center opened its doors in 1999. Today, they provide a home away from home for 120 hard working and dedicated individuals. The center’s *clinical services, training programs, employment opportunities and Senior’s program* enhance the lives of their clients and assist them in reaching their maximum potential.

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“The excitement, satisfaction and self-esteem that comes with earning an income by the creation of your own hands is something that we all value and aspire to,” stated Rifath Khan, Executive Director of The Douglas Center. “For individuals living with disabilities this is both extremely challenging and extremely rewarding. We are honored and deeply grateful to Global Handmade Hope for their support of this venture and for making a difference in the lives of those living with disabilities.”

For more information on making a donation and/or inquiries on exploring a potential production/manufacturing project assignment for The Douglas Center, please contact Linda Cordero, Development Coordinator at lcordero@thedouglascenter.com or 847-674-1921 ext. 225 or visit our website: www.thedouglascenter.com

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