



FOR: The Douglas Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Douglas Center Presented With Check Award for Winning “Do-Gooder of the Year” Contest Sponsored by Autohaus on Edens and Toyota Corporate

Skokie, IL — Rifath Khan, Executive Director of The Douglas Center was presented with a check for \$2,500 after being named “Do-Gooder of Year” in a contest sponsored by Autohaus on Edens and Toyota Corporate. The top two winning nominees will each receive \$5,000 donated to the non-profit organization. After receiving the initial \$2,500, each nominee is now eligible to apply for a grant from Toyota for their matching portion of \$2,500.

“Do-Gooder of the Year” contest rules stated that all nominations be submitted via a video explaining why the nominee deserved this title and award. Voting for all nominees was conducted by the public on the facebook page of Autohaus on Edens.

Contest voting ended on Friday, April 15, 2011 at 5:00 pm. When the voting was tallied the nomination of Rifath Khan, Executive Director of The Douglas Center was the first place winner. “On behalf of The Douglas Center, we would like to thank Autohaus on Edens and Toyota Corporate for the opportunity to participate in this exciting contest”, stated Rifath Khan, Executive Director.

During the Autohaus on Edens presentation, Rifath Khan, Executive Director presented an **“Art From The Heart” Creations** mosaic wall hanging to Michael Rosengarten, President of Autohaus on Edens on behalf of the program participants of The Douglas Center. **“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 125 hard working and dedicated individuals. The center’s *clinical services, training programs, employment opportunities and Senior’s program* enhance the lives of their program participants and assist them in reaching their maximum potential.

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“Non-profit organizations are facing challenging times with the many severe funding cutbacks. The award monies we receive will go directly in support of the programming provided by our center for individuals living with disabilities”, announced Rifath Khan. “Thank you for joining with us in our commitment to provide the vital programs and services so urgently needed in our community.”

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 or visit our website: www.thedouglascenter.com

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