



Band of Angels Awarded a \$15,000 Grant from Art Van "Million Dollar Charity Challenge"

*Band of Angels has Opportunity to Win Additional \$25,000
VOTE Online by October 30 at <http://artvancharitychallenge.com/>*

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Rochester Hills, Mich. ---October 18, 2010--- Michigan-based Band of Angels, an international outreach organization dedicated to helping individuals with Down syndrome, autism and other cognitive impairments reach their full potential, announces it has been named a recipient of the 2010 Art Van Million Dollar Charity Challenge. For the second year in a row, Art Van Furniture is providing \$1 million to fund 50 grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to help support Michigan-based children, health and human services programs. Nearly 600 organizations applied to receive the grants.

Band of Angels was awarded a \$15,000 grant, which will be used to provide support and education for a new program supporting siblings of children with Down syndrome, autism and other cognitive challenges, according to Band of Angels founder and CEO Cynthia Kidder Hutchison, a 2005 Michiganiaan of the Year.

"Band of Angels has long recognized that siblings of children with cognitive impairments often face unique issues themselves. With the Art Van grant, we will be able to offer programming geared to tackling these issues and providing siblings an emotionally safe place to share their joys and concerns," Ms. Kidder Hutchison explains.

In addition to the grant, the public can decide which of the 50 grant recipients, including Band of Angels, will be awarded additional money by voting on-line until October 30 at: <http://artvancharitychallenge.com/>. The charity with the most votes will receive an additional prize of \$25,000.

"For years, Southeast Michigan charities such as Band of Angels have been generously supported largely by the auto industry. With the industry retrenching, Art Van has shown true corporate leadership by increasing its already impressive charitable efforts to further support the non-profit community through targeted giving that enriches the lives of children and families."

In an effort to encourage philanthropic giving and community support, Art Van Furniture designed the grants as 'challenge grants' to encourage others to donate and maximize fundraising opportunities. The participating organizations are Michigan-based 501(c)3 non-profits who focus on children, health and human services programs.

"The Art Van Million Dollar Charity Challenge benefits 50 remarkable and deserving organizations. We salute their outstanding work and want to help them continue to improve the lives of people across our state," says Art Van Elslander, Founder and Chairman of Art Van Furniture.

About Band of Angels

Michigan-based Band of Angels was established in 1994 by CEO Cynthia Kidder Hutchison, a national advocate for educating and employing individuals with Down syndrome, autism and other cognitive impairments. Band of Angels produces high-end stationery products, the Halo with a Twist® jewelry line, the award-winning *Common Threads: Celebrating Life with Down syndrome*, which was co-written by Ms. Kidder Hutchison and Brian Skotko, M.D. and, back by popular demand and with an updated look, "Hi, I'm Ben...and I Have a Secret," a simple children's book written from the perspective of a young boy with Down syndrome. For additional product, book and catalog information, or to learn more about Band of Angels outreach efforts and activity camps, please visit <http://www.bandofangels.com>.

About Art Van Furniture

Art Van Furniture is Michigan's largest furniture retailer and America's largest independent furniture retailer. The company operates 34 stores in 33 communities throughout Michigan, a full service e-commerce website, plus three freestanding Art Van PureSleep bedding stores in Canton, Troy and Rochester Hills, Michigan. Founded in 1959, the company is family-owned and headquartered in Warren, Mich.

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