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SECOND UNITE WITH ART AUCTION AND GALA

**\$200,000 RAISED AT UNITE WITH ART GALA
PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT UNICEF CANADA'S
UNITE FOR CHILDREN, UNITE AGAINST AIDS CAMPAIGN**

Vancouver, BC – June 16, 2009 – A combination of art appreciation and AIDS advocacy raised an impressive \$200,000 Wednesday, June 3 at the second Unite with Art Auction and Gala.

Proceeds of the successful evening, held at the former Storyeum in Gastown, benefited UNICEF Canada's *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS* campaign.

More than 350 Vancouver art collectors bid on over 50 silent auction items including works from Chris Woods, Angela Grossmann, and Kavavaow Mannomee. Hugh Bulmer of Maynards Auctioneers auctioned off more than 40 collectable works by acclaimed artists including Fred Herzog, Ross Penhall, Thomas Anfield and Charles Rea, among others. Local designers rounded out the live auction with donations from Obakki, Omer Arbel, Michael Gotziaman, John Fluevog, Kelly Deck, and Inform Interiors to name a few.

Hosted by CBC's Fred Lee, the stylish evening also included live music by cellist Cris Derksen and pianist Max Zipursky. The evening was sustained by culinary delights donated by some of Gastown's finest restaurants, including So.Cial @ Le Magasin, Les Amis du Fromage, Wild Rice, Cobre and Revel Restaurant. The evening closed with a dessert reception courtesy of Daniel Le Chocolat Belge.

"The evening was an overwhelmingly positive response from the community who became part of changing the landscape for children affected by HIV and AIDS," states Alison Lawton, Chair of UNICEF's *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS* campaign."

"The event raised significant funds for the campaign and demonstrated outstanding talent, compassion and collaboration from our community of artists, sponsors and volunteers," states Julie Lee, Executive Director of Unite with Art.

Over 2.3 million children under the age of 15 live with HIV and each day that number grows by an additional 1,800 as more children are infected. But there is hope—the *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS* campaign has the promise of turning this around. Proceeds from the Unite with Art Auction and Gala will help enable UNICEF's achieve their goal of seeing a future generation of children living in an AIDS-free world. For more information on *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS* visit www.uniteforchildren.ca or www.unitewithart.com.