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For immediate release

ArtFest Midwest ‘The Other Art Show’

Partners with

American Red Cross

and

The Blood Center of Iowa

to

Aid in Flood Relief

ArtFest MidWest “The Other Art Show”

June 28-29, 2008

Check www.artfestmidwest.com for complete artist list

From Ron & Sue Stookey, business owners & coordinators of ArtFest Midwest:

- **We know the heartache and despair following a flood. In 1993 our antique furniture & refinishing shop in Valley Junction was flooded. We made it through the clean-up and the river muck and the rebuilding with the help of family, friends and even a church group from Kansas that walked in and lent a helping hand. We survived. We made it through the good and the bad experiences of flooding. We’ll never**

forget. We can relate to all of our Iowa and Mid-western neighbors who have faced flooding in the last couple weeks.

- We also know the agony of dealing with a hurricane's aftermath. A few years ago, we traveled to Texas on three mission trips to help clean up following Hurricane Rita.
- We are overwhelmed with sadness for what Iowans have had to endure the last two weeks. We are so fortunate that the City of West Des Moines and the federal government have built levees to protect Valley Junction.
- At this time in our state's history, American Red Cross is very low on funds and blood supply in Iowa is at a critical level.

From the Washington Post June 16, 2008: "The American Red Cross said yesterday that it has depleted its national disaster relief fund and is taking out loans to pay for shelters, food and other relief services across seven Midwestern states battered by floods."

According to The Blood Center of Iowa latest press release: "FLOOD CONDITIONS & LOW DONOR TURNOUT IMPACT BLOOD SUPPLY-- Blood Drive Cancellations Send Blood Supply to Critical Levels"

- Now we'd like to help those who are dealing with the agony of the Floods of '08. We've partnered with American Red Cross to organize a fund-raising event: "Keep American Red Cross Afloat", and with The Blood Center of Iowa to hold the "ArtFest Midwest Blood Drive". These events will be held in conjunction with ArtFest Midwest 'The Other Art Show' this Saturday and Sunday at the Iowa State Fairgrounds.
We will be collecting donations for American Red Cross both days of the show. Each person who donates a minimum of \$5 will receive a bottle of Crystal Clear water. ALL MONEY COLLECTED WILL BE GIVEN TO THE RED CROSS. Our goal is to sell 2000 bottles to raise \$10,000! (Water is being provided by ArtFest Midwest and The Potters of Altoona--another Valley Junction business flooded in '93.)
- We've also arranged for The Blood Center of Iowa to bring its bloodmobile bus so show goers can donate blood from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday. The bus will be parked in front of the Varied Industries Building. Our goal is for 50 people to donate blood and....if we reach our goal, the 50th person to donate will receive \$100 gift certificate for artwork at ArtFest Midwest!
- 112 of our 228 artists are from Iowa (many from towns that experienced flooding) & 217 are from the Mid-west.

About ArtFest Midwest THE OTHER ART SHOW

ArtFest Midwest THE OTHER ART SHOW began in 2003, after several local Des Moines artists expressed concern about being excluded from the annual downtown art show in June. Stookey Companies is a Des Moines-based family-owned and operated business that has been in existence for 15 years. Stookey Companies also promotes a fine art show at Valley West Mall in West Des Moines, Iowa.

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