



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kevin Ho, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Address: Pat D'Arrigo ARTS Center
2820 Roosevelt Road, Suite 106
San Diego, CA 92106
Telephone: (619) 297-2787 ext 2009
Fax: (866) 246-5811
Email: kho@AReasonToSurvive.org
Website: www.AReasonToSurvive.org

ARTS FOUNDER HONORED AS A COMMUNITY HERO

ARTS Executive Director and Founder Matt D'Arrigo presented
with Safeco's 2008 Community Hero Award

San Diego, CA, December 16, 2008 – Matt D'Arrigo, Executive Director and Founder of A Reason To Survive (ARTS), was recently honored with the Safeco Insurance Foundation 2008 Community Hero Award. This award recognizes and celebrates outstanding citizens who not only make a positive impact on their community, but also empower others to do the same. Matt D'Arrigo was nominated through the Safeco Agent Giving Program this year by Safeco independent agency partner Ed Johnson of Johnson & Wood Insurance Services, which is based out of Carlsbad, CA and provides insurance brokerage services to ARTS.

"I am extremely humbled and honored to receive this award. ARTS – its staff, volunteers, supporters and the kids we serve – are the true heroes, but I am happy to accept on all of their behalf," expressed D'Arrigo. "We are proud to become partners with the Safeco Insurance Foundation in furthering our mission to heal, inspire, and empower kids in the San Diego community through the arts. Their support of organizations such as ARTS is proof that Safeco is truly making a positive difference in our communities."

Safeco Insurance provides property and casualty insurance nationwide, and its Foundation acts to support and enrich inclusive communities **through philanthropic giving to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations**. **Safeco** receives more than 150 nominations from agents across the country for the Community Hero Awards, and only 30 winners are selected each year. Winners receive \$15,000 grants made in their honor to the nonprofit they work with.

A Reason To Survive (ARTS) is a San Diego-based non-profit organization that is dedicated to healing, inspiring, and empowering children facing life challenges by providing free innovative arts-based programs, education, and opportunities. ARTS provides visual, performing, and literary arts programs to thousands of kids annually at the Pat D'Arrigo ARTS Center, located at the NTC Promenade in Point Loma. This 7,000 square foot creative space includes visual and ceramic arts studios, a dance studio, music room, digital media room, and children's art gallery. ARTS also provides Community Outreach Programs to children at various partner sites such as hospitals, residential treatment facilities, shelters, rehabilitation centers, community groups, schools, and more. The programs and services are **FREE** to children facing life challenges. There is no charge to a child, family, partner site or service provider. For more information, please visit www.AReasonToSurvive.org.

###

If you would like more information on this topic or to schedule an interview with Kevin Ho, please contact (619) 297-ARTS (2787) ext 2009 or kho@AReasonToSurvive.org.