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Press Contact: Autumn Buys, (801) 451-5365, [autumn.buys@ThomasARTS.com](mailto:autumn.buys@ThomasARTS.com)

**ThomasARTS CEO Honored by Arthritis Foundation**

***Local chapter of the Arthritis Foundation recognizes Dave Thomas for his service to the community***

**Farmington, UTAH —April 05, 2011** ThomasARTS founder and CEO Dave Thomas received the Doris S. Melich Founders' Award from the Utah/Idaho Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation last Thursday evening at the organization's annual Evening of Honors gala in Salt Lake City. Thomas' professional triumphs and longstanding service to the community were honored among family members, business partners, employees and fellow community leaders.

"I am humbled and honored by this showing of appreciation from the Arthritis Foundation," said Thomas. "This community, and this organization in particular, represent the ideals that have infused my business philosophies: an emphasis on working, winning, prospering and sharing. It is a pleasure to be part of that association."

Thomas founded ThomasARTS in 2003 with his three sons, Troy, Brett and Matt, and two additional partners, Anne Wood and Lisa Roberts. Today, the company includes more than 130 employees, with offices in Utah, California, Minnesota, New York and Texas.

Previously, Thomas served as the CEO of several Utah-based advertising agencies, including Thomas Philips Clawson and EvansGroup, and as president of the Salt Lake City Publicis office. He also contributes immensely to the local community through organizations such as The Deseret Foundation, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Utah Food Bank, the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, Salt Lake Community College and others.

"There are many sides to Dave," said Rob Brough, Vice President of Marketing and Communications for Zions Bank, who introduced Thomas. "He has held numerous titles throughout his long and illustrious career, including teacher, partner, director, founder, president, chairman, CEO and problem solver, but I am most especially grateful to call him my friend."

The Arthritis Foundation is the only national non-profit organization that represents more than 100 types of arthritis and related conditions. Founded in 1948, the Arthritis Foundation has multiple service points located throughout the country. The Arthritis Foundation is the largest private non-profit contributor to arthritis research in the world, having funded over \$380 million in research grants during the past 60 years. The Foundation presents the Doris S. Melich Founders Award annually to individuals in the community who demonstrate the true spirit of service.

For more information about Dave Thomas or the ThomasARTS family of companies, contact Autumn Buys at [autumn.buys@ThomasARTS.com](mailto:autumn.buys@ThomasARTS.com) or (801) 451-5365.

**ABOUT THOMASARTS**

240 S. 200 W. • PO Box 70 • Farmington, UT 84025 • Ph: 801.451.5365

17011 Beach Blvd., Ste. 600 • Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • Ph: 714.375.7800

11000 Prairie Lakes Dr., Suite 275 • Eden Prairie, MN 55344 • Ph: 866.601.0814



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