



For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Terry Phillips
Communications Coordinator
(561) 746-3101

Five Tons of Canned Food Create Sculptures at the Lighthouse Center

Tequesta -- (September 28, 2009) Enthusiastic art patrons enjoyed the first look during an opening reception after tons of canned food were transformed into art for the second annual design competition and exhibit "**CANstruction**" at The Gallery @ The Lighthouse Center for the Arts (LCA). This art competition, national in scope, brings awareness to local hunger as all canned food used in the sculptures is subsequently donated to area food banks. Augmenting CANstruction's message this year are two photographic documentaries: *Palm Beach: One County, Two Worlds*, teen Allison Parssi's depiction of disparity between Belle Glade and Palm Beach; and the Lighthouse Camera Club's *Food 4 Thought: Access in Excess*, a study of easy access to excess food in our culture. All three exhibitions will be on display through Tuesday, November 5, culminating in the local CANstruction awards ceremony that evening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Admission is free to all exhibitions and the awards ceremony.

"The CANstruction sculptures combined with the photographs make a powerful statement," said Collette Meyers, LCA Board President. "These exhibitions reflect the dedication to fighting hunger in our community with all involved donating their time, talents or resources," stated Meyers.

CANstruction participants Seabranh Art League with partners Simmons & White Engineering created an interactive wall of food with the message: "*We CAN feed the hungry 1 can at a time!*" Also on display are structures which apply a humorous twist to iconic images such as "*The Cantheon*" inspired by Rome's famous Pantheon; a reproduction of Andy Warhol's "*100 Cans*"; and the popular peace sign titled "*Visualize World Peas & Hominy*". Entries inspired by our coastal location include two structures "*Fantasy Fish*" and "*Spamella the Sea Turtle*". Lighthouse Center for the Arts hosts the only South Florida competition of the one hundred CANstruction contests nationwide. CANstruction is sanctioned by the Society for Design Administration and local winners are entered in the 2009 national competition. Since the event's establishment in 1992, ten million pounds of food have been donated to food banks to fight hunger.

Local individuals, groups and professional design teams including Village Architects and others joined with Publix Supermarkets, Whole Foods Supermarkets, Wells Fargo and many other businesses as well as public and private donors to supply the canned food. The Kitchen Strand of Hobe Sound, a CANstruction exhibit sponsor, provided barista service to the opening reception crowd. A complete list of sponsors is available at www.lighthousearts.org.

At the exhibit's close on November 5, all cans will be donated to the Treasure Coast Food Bank for distribution to emergency centers, pantries, soup kitchens, and to elder and day care centers. "The number of families seeking help from food banks is up 46% in our community from this time last year," stated John Meehan, Treasure Coast Food Bank Executive Director. "The food from these structures and community awareness about hungry families in our own backyard is priceless, particularly during these trying times."

The Lighthouse Center for the Arts is a non-profit community arts center providing top quality year round arts exhibitions and arts education for all ages. The Center is located in Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta, FL, ½ mile west of US Hwy 1. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information about exhibitions, programs and art classes call 561.746.3101 or visit online at www.lighthousearts.org.