

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Governor Napolitano Visits Belleza Gallery



*Governor Napolitano prepares to sign a RH Adirondack chair, assisted by Stephen Watts and Lou Anne Sterbick-Nelson*

September, 23, 2006, BISBEE—Arizona  
Governor Janet Napolitano visited the Belleza Gallery, wholly owned by Renaissance House (previously Women's Transition Project), in Bisbee to view its artwork and learn about the organization as it celebrates its fifth anniversary.

During her visit, the Governor met with Executive Director Stephen Watts and Gallery Director Lou Anne Sterbick-Nelson to discuss the

organization's progress and challenges as a growing organization. This year, Renaissance House was recognized as a grantee of the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona, and last year, Yale's School of Management and the Goldman Sachs Foundation named Renaissance House a finalist in its National Business Plan Competition for Nonprofit Organizations.

Governor Napolitano also met current residents, who baked and decorated cakes to welcome her to the residential treatment program. In the midst of a busy day of visits throughout Cochise County, Governor Napolitano rested comfortably in a teak Adirondack chair handmade by the women in the program's woodshop.

Before leaving the gallery, the Governor signed the Adirondack chair, which will be included in a silent auction for this weekend's anniversary celebration. On October 1, Renaissance House will host an art showing and wine reception at Belleza Gallery, 29 Main St., 1-4:30pm. For a

\$20 donation, guests will meet many of Belleza's finest artists and graduates of the program.

Renaissance House is the only residential drug and alcohol treatment facility for women in the four counties constituting Southeastern Arizona. The organization is also unique in that its self-sufficiency model teaches women the life skills they need to break the cycle of homelessness, addiction, domestic violence, crime, and family abuse.

Belleza Gallery manages an innovative vocational education program in which residents construct Adirondack furniture. One-hundred percent of the profit from the gallery provides operating funds for Renaissance House, and 100 percent of the profit from furniture sales is distributed to the residents upon their graduation from the facility. In addition, clients learn life, vocational, and business skills while working at the gallery and in the wood-working facility.

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