



CONTACT:
Barbara Saylor
202.680.8881
Barbara@BarbaraSaylor.com

PAPER TO PEARLS AND DC-BASED JEWELRY DESIGNER ANTHONY DRIVER EXPAND COLLABORATIVE LINE

ALEXANDRIA, VA – Paper to Pearls has launched an expanded accessories line with DC-based jewelry designer Anthony Driver. The initial partnership, which consisted of an earring collection, has broadened to include bracelets. Paper to Pearls receives 40 percent of the sale price of each item, which the organization uses to help support its beader program in northern Uganda.

Driver, who hails from Capitol Hill, is known for showcasing bold silhouettes and hammered metals in his creations. Introduced to Paper to Pearls by a mutual friend, he began incorporating the organization's recycled paper beads into his work, developing a new line that features the beads and other materials such as coins and reclaimed metals.

"Adding new pieces to the Paper to Pearls collaborative line was a natural progression for me," said Driver. "As I continue to evolve as a designer, the work I create and the materials I choose will change and grow as well. I am inspired by the stories behind these beads, the hands that so carefully craft them, and the limitless possibilities for their use."

Driver began designing jewelry in the early 1970s, by hammering silver spoons, forks, and knives, and incorporating African beads and copper wire into the designs. He says that, "style is the outward expression of external elements that speak for what's inside, and my early creations were reflections of my reaching for my African roots, which was a common theme in that era." Driver's signature, geometrically shaped pieces feature small-sized, semiprecious stones or diamond accents in 18K gold and sterling silver, often with a bit of patina copper. Driver's collaborative line with Paper to Pearls is available at www.papertopearls.org and at his booth at Eastern Market on Capitol Hill.

"I love the idea of a collaborative line," said Barbara Moller, president and founder of Paper to Pearls. "Not only do we get to see the work of our beaders presented in new and different ways, but working with talented individuals like Anthony allows us to bring the stories of these women in Uganda to another audience."

About Paper to Pearls

An initiative of Voices for Global Change, Paper to Pearls works with women from internal refugee camps in northern Uganda to create jewelry by hand-rolling beads from recycled paper, which is then sold in the United States and throughout the world. On average, 85 percent of the sale price of each piece of jewelry directly benefits the beader through income and training. Since 2006, the program has grown to include nearly 125 women in nine beading cooperatives, allowing them to make approximately four times the national average wage. Concerned with empowerment and self-sufficiency, Paper to Pearls also provides women with the skills and confidence to take control of their own lives. For more information and to purchase jewelry items, visit www.papertopearls.org.

###