



CONTACT:
Barbara Saylor
202.680.8881
Barbara@BarbaraSaylor.com

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**PAPER TO PEARLS EXPANDS PRESENCE AT 2009 WASHINGTON, DC GREEN FESTIVAL,
RAISES \$5,700 TO FUND PROGRAMS IN NORTHERN UGANDA**

ALEXANDRIA, VA – Paper to Pearls expanded its participation in the 2009 Washington DC Green Festival, held at the Washington Convention Center on October 11-12, 2009. The organization doubled its presence at the festival, occupying two adjoining exhibitor spaces in the Eco Fashion section. Over the festival weekend, Paper to Pearls raised more than \$5,700 to support its beader program for refugee women in northern Uganda.

The [Washington DC Green Festival™](#) is a joint project of Global Exchange and Green America, created to celebrate “what’s working in our communities—across the District, Maryland and Virginia—for people, for business and for the environment.” The 2009 Washington DC Green Festival featured more than 125 speakers and 350 green businesses, how-to workshops, green films, a Fair Trade pavilion, yoga classes, organic beer and cuisine, and live music. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about DC environmental initiatives, and how neighbors, community nonprofits, and city departments are working together to make their cities healthier places to live.

“The experience of volunteering with Paper to Pearls at the DC Green Festival isn’t just one of serving a wonderful organization,” said Meg McCann, festival volunteer. “It is also a learning experience that offers an opportunity to share the personal stories of the women who made the jewelry our visitors came to see.”

The Paper to Pearls exhibit featured tables and wall units offering for sale the jewelry crafted by bead makers in the program, raffles and giveaways, a video presentation of the program in action, and a demonstration table, where festival visitors could experience the process of rolling their own strips of recycled paper into beads.

“I am quite proud of our continued participation in the DC Green Festival,” said Barbara Moller, president and founder. “Each year, we reach more new people, while others comment that they remember us from the year before. It allows us to build face-to-face relationships with our supporters and tell our story in a more tangible, memorable way.”

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.

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