



Greetings Tina,

The Arthritis Foundation Metropolitan Washington Chapter is honored to extend an invitation to you to participate in the *Arts for Arthritis Gala* to be held on the evening of Saturday, November 8, 2008 at the Ritz Carlton, Pentagon City Hotel. This is an exquisite black-tie dinner dance featuring a live and silent auction to benefit the Arthritis Foundation, Metropolitan Washington, DC Chapter. It is also an opportunity for the Arthritis Foundation to present *The Marriott Lifetime Achievement Award* and we are privileged to honor former **Congressman Paul Rogers**, now with Hogan and Hartson, as this year's *Marriott Lifetime Achievement Award* recipient. We expect more than 500 community advocates, members of Congress, members of the health care industry, and art collectors to attend.

The *Arts for Arthritis Gala* highlights premier artists. We invite you to participate in this event by making an auction contribution of your work. Artists may either make a straight donation or can split the sale of the work 50 - 50 with the foundation. As the artist, you will set the actual price of your work as well as set the minimum bid. As a donor to the auction, you will share in the spotlight. Your support will be recognized in the Gala program, event signage, the *Arthritis Frontline* newsletter which reaches 25,000 recipients in the Metropolitan Washington, DC area as well as on our website. To further expand awareness of your work, we will be happy to make available announcements of upcoming shows, or promotional materials, at the auction. With your permission, we will include your donated piece(s) in an on-line auction prior to the Gala, which will increase your visibility and promote higher bidding on your artwork. We want your participation in this event to not only raise funds for fighting disease, but to raise awareness of the major creative effort put forth by the artist community.

Arthritis is the most common cause of disability in the nation and the second leading cause of workplace disability. This condition includes more than 100 different diseases, and affects people of all age groups, including nearly 300,000 children. There are 70 million Americans affected by arthritis -- *830,000 in the metropolitan Washington community alone, including more than 4,000 children.* The Arthritis Foundation is the only nationwide health organization helping people take greater control of arthritis by leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases.

To respond, please complete the attached Artist's Auction Donation Form and send to the Arthritis Foundation. Proceeds from the evening will provide the critical funding needed to sustain the programs and services of the Arthritis Foundation that benefit so many individuals in our community.

The success of this evening will truly depend on the generosity of many. Your consideration is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (202) 537-6800 ext. 3027; fax (202) 537-6859; or e-mail me at vcummings@arthritis.org.

Very sincerely,

Veronica C. Cummings
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"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." -Rebecca, Age 8