

STEADY TRAFFIC, GREEN-THEMED LAKE HOUSE DISPLAY AND PACKED

BIG NIGHT CONCERT HIGHLIGHTED THE JULY 2008 EDITION OF THE CHICAGO MARKET: LIVING AND GIVING™

CHICAGO (July 25, 2008) – The Chicago Market: Living and Giving™ delivered a successful, busy Market this July with steady, order-writing traffic, the enthusiastically embraced green-themed Lake House display and a packed Big Night concert outside on The Merchandise Mart's South Drive. The Chicago Market: Living and Giving ran from July 17-23 with Temporaries including Beckman's Handcrafted Gift Show® from July 19-22.

Highlights of the July 2008 The Chicago Market: Living and Giving included:

The Lake House Display

The increasingly popular Lake House at The Merchandise Mart featured unique, green-themed products woven throughout its display in the North Lobby. This concept home offered design ideas and inspiration for lake homes, cottage retreats or second homes — enticing retailers and designers to incorporate green product into their stores and clients' homes.

The **Lake House** reflected the consumer-driven trends toward eco-friendly or green-focused products, from the paint on the walls to the toys on the steps. Designed and merchandised by commercial and residential designer, Mick Santiago, the house demonstrated how simple it can be to incorporate environmentally friendly product into the home and store, so that it can become a part of everyday life.

Each aspect of the Lake House featured a collection of Green trends and products for environmentally conscious customers. Products included wallpaper, draperies, bamboo towels, bed linens, dishes and glassware, rugs, sculptures, artwork and furniture.

Special Events:

The Big Night at The Mart on Monday, July 21 continued to be the stand-out event of Market. This Market's premier event featured *Gone 2 Paradise* with Frank Paul, who brought the ultimate Jimmy Buffett music experience to The Chicago Market in the unique and scenic outdoor venue along the Chicago River.

This Market's **Power Lunch Seminar Series** connected packed rooms full of attendees together with industry experts and high-profile editors. Power Lunches included Caroline Kennedy, editor in chief of *Gifts & Decorative Accessories* magazine; Cinda Baxter, retail consultant and founder of RetailSpeaks; Jenny Heinzen York, editor of *Home Accents Today* magazine and Jann Parr, editor of *Chicago Home & Garden* magazine.

Retailers' Choice Award: The Chicago Market: Living and Giving™ is proud to announce the winners of the **July 2008 Retailers' Choice** for Most Inspiring Showroom and Market Suites Exhibitor. The showroom winners include: Floor 13, burton + BURTON (13-235) Floor 14, Aldik (1465) and Floor 15, Kenneth Ludwig Home Furnishings, Ltd. (1510). The Market Suites exhibitor winners include: Beckman's, Blue Hill by Hand (7-2045), General Gift, Couronne Company, Inc. (8-4074), Home, Euroline (7-6062), Urban Chic, Purple Zen (7-7112) and What a Girl Wants, ChicBuds (8-8075).

SAVE THE DATES:

The Fall 2008 edition of The Chicago Market: Living and Giving will run September 15-17, Monday through Wednesday, in conjunction with the International Casual Furnishings and Accessories Market™. This Fall buying event provides the perfect opportunity to see more trends and products just in time for the holiday season and prepare for next season in one convenient destination. Buyers will enjoy all of the amenities and service that define The Merchandise Mart's world-class reputation while shopping the product that consumers want.

And it's never too early to book reservations for the January 2009 The Chicago Market: Living and Giving. With the expansion of Gift and Home temporary resources to the new Galleries on the 12th Floor plus the co-location of STYLEMAX, the industry-leading apparel and accessories market, there are even more reasons to be in Chicago this January.

January 2009: The Chicago Market: Living and Giving

Showrooms: Thursday, January 15 through Wednesday, January 21

Market Suites: Saturday, January 17 through Tuesday, January 20

STYLEMAX, in the 7th Floor Market Suites: Saturday, January 17 through Tuesday, January 20

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Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. (MMPI) is a trade show and property management firm, specializing in managing buildings devoted to wholesale showrooms and commercial office space. MMPI produces more than 300 trade shows, market events and conferences each year.

MMPI manages The Merchandise Mart and 350 West Mart Center in Chicago; Market Square, the Suites at Market Square, Hamilton Market, Plaza Suites, Furniture Plaza and the National Furniture Mart in High Point, N.C.; the Architects & Designers Building and 7 W New York in New York; the Boston Design Center in Boston; the L.A. Mart in Los Angeles; and the Washington Design Center and Federal Center Southwest in Washington D.C.

Vornado Realty Trust, owners of MMPI, based in New York City, is a fully integrated equity real estate investment trust. Vornado's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and are traded under the symbol VNO.

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