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Public Art Captures Philosophy of Life in Balance

Splendido Showcases Local Artists

TUCSON, AZ (October 9, 2006)—Celebrating nature, the environment and life's journeys are the inspiration for several new sculptures to be installed in Oro Valley. Splendido unveiled the public art projects at their Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC), scheduled to open this fall.

Kay Warren, executive director at Splendido, said they received a number of letters of interest from artists throughout the region and selected these particular pieces based on a number of factors.

"We were drawn to the messages of the artists who really seemed to connect with what we envision this community to be," Warren said. "It was great that all were from Arizona, allowing us to support our community by supporting our artists."

Warren said there will be three sculptures placed throughout the community. The artists selected and their works are:

- **Mark Rossi's** bronze sculpture, "Fountain Sculpture," will be the central art feature at Splendido. It includes a group of life-size herons and other smaller animals and highlights the wealth and beauty of nature in the surrounding environment. Rossi has lived in Tucson for 32 years and works as a bronze sculptor. With over 400 pieces of work, his focus is nature subjects including mammals, birds, fish and life-size humans.
- **Lawrence E. Passey** is a professional sculptor whose education, professional experience and creative abilities produce timeless pieces of art. Splendido will display Passey's "Land Buoys," a large bronze and stone sculpture. "Land Buoys" symbolize a path that has been traveled before. They are metaphorical markers of stone that ancestors left to float on the changing surface of the planet. His artistry has been displayed in various countries.

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- **Pam Castaño** has 30 years of experience of creating sculptures and producing identity pieces. "Allegretta" will be viewable from the street and will welcome residents to the spa at Splendido. The piece is comprised of music, plants and animals that radiate elegance, humor and vibrancy to the community.

Splendido is a joint venture of Mather LifeWays, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Evanston, Ill., that creates Ways to Age WellSM for older adults; and The Plaza Companies, a developer headquartered in Phoenix, Ariz., that specializes in retirement community development. Splendido will offer resort-style senior living with access to on-site health care. For more information about Splendido, please visit www.splendidotucson.com.

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