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**Auto Designer's Art Takes Flight**  
After Ford, There's COTS

*Farmington Hills, MI – April 6, 2009* – Former Ford Automotive Chief Designer, Robert (Bob) Aikins, retired 8 years ago, but he's still putting in long hours at the studio...his studio. Aikins secretly harboured a fondness for airplanes all the while he was designing automobiles, and now his paint on canvas produces remarkably realistic images of WACO Biplanes, P-51 Mustangs and other famous, historic aircraft. His work covers all phases of aviation history with over 90 paintings completed to date. His paintings have been exhibited at various art venues, including world renowned Henry Ford Museum.

Aikin's charitable side motivated him to help the homeless and he'll donate some of his work to be auctioned at the Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS) annual **ImaginAide** fundraiser. The fundraiser will be held Saturday, April 25, at the new Motor City Casino Hotel located in downtown Detroit. Bob is submitting two prints of his original oil on canvas aviation paintings. Visit [www.cotsdetroit.org](http://www.cotsdetroit.org) for ticket info.

"We are thrilled to be able to attract artists of this caliber," exclaims Lynn Wilhelm, COTS Chief Development Officer. "The strength of our fundraising depends on the talent and generosity of artists like Bob Aikins," she continued.

Aikins credits his father, a World War I flyer, with inspiring his early interest in aviation. Building model airplanes grew into designing and building model cars. This led to the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles and a 35 year career designing cars and trucks for Ford Motor Company.

*ImaginAide 2009 is sponsored by: GMAC, BrassCraft, Systems Services, Yazaki, RL Polk and St. John Health*

*Founded in 1982, the Coalition On Temporary Shelter (COTS) is a private, non-profit organization that provides emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing and comprehensive support services for Detroit's homeless population. Its mission is to alleviate homelessness by offering an array of services, which enable people to achieve economic self-sufficiency and decent, affordable housing. COTS™ 140-bed shelter provides nearly 50,000 nights of emergency shelter each year.*

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