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**COTS Benefit Features Nationally Known Royal Oak Artist  
*ImaginAide* Artist Believes Art Is For The People**

*Royal Oak, MI, March 23, 2009* – Royal Oak Artist Daniel Cascardo will be one of the featured artists at this year's **ImaginAide** for COTS art auction. The only problem is you won't be able to take his work home. Known for his expressive, bold and spontaneous murals, Cascardo is offering a collaborative artistic experience for the successful bidder or bidders. **ImaginAide** will be held Saturday, April 25, at the new Motor City Casino Hotel located in downtown Detroit. Visit [www.cotsdetroit.org](http://www.cotsdetroit.org) for ticket info.

"We'll be doing a 5' x 10' mural in COTS building and the winning bidders will participate," Cascardo explains. "I'll create the background, and sketch in areas of the piece, then 'suggest' ways the participants can finish it." The artist estimates that this approach can accommodate as many as ten successful bidders. Recently, Cascardo created an outdoor mural in Ferndale that measured 12' by 60'. Some of his work can be viewed at: [www.danielcascardo.com](http://www.danielcascardo.com)

"The great thing about Daniel's donation is that our clients not only benefit from the auction proceeds, but they will be able to see the actual work become a permanent part of COTS," remarks Lynn Wilhelm, COTS Chief Development Officer.

Freedom of expression is critical to Cascardo's style and he occasionally works "live" and to music. "It is an expression of the moment. This form of painting brings me, the artist, and the viewer (when done live) into the moment," he points out.

*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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