

Tom House Wins ArtsinStark “Dream Trip”- 7/20/2010



Where would you go if you had an extra \$1,200 to blow? To the beach? The mountains? A wild weekend in NYC? A surprise stop to friends or family that you've been longing to see? Or would you spin the globe and see where it stops?

This is what Tom House has to decide.

As the winner of the ArtsinStark DREAM TRIP STARTER KIT, House, a father of five and resident of Canton, Ohio, has his choice of how and where to spend the \$1,200 in cash. There were almost 3,000 donors to the 2010 Campaign, and the names of all donors who gave at least \$39 were automatically entered into a raffle to win the Dream Trip. House's name was drawn.

“Well, I truly wasn't expecting this today, “ said House, a machinist at HLS-Solmet Technologies, one of the 21 area companies who hold a workplace campaign for the arts. “It's funny, but my sister and I were just talking about getting the families together, next year, to go to Myrtle Beach, so this makes it easier.”

And, to get things started, he'll have an additional \$300 worth of goodies including an underwater digital video camera, beach accessories and some fun-in-the-sun goodies, rounding out the \$1,500 value of the prize.

“At a recent First Friday, Tom mentioned that he really felt, that by his donation, he really feels part of the great things that are happening in the community,” said Joe Halter, owner of HLS-Solmet Technologies, where a workplace campaign for the arts has been held for the last five years. The Solmet workplace raised nearly \$10,000 for the Annual Arts Campaign which broke all records by --- not only making goal for the fifth year in a row --- but raising the highest amount in its history: \$1,455,000.

“What this means is that, next year, we will give out over a million dollars in grants that will touch every community in the county and reach more than 200,000 people who are using the arts to create new jobs, smarter kids and healthier communities,” says Robb Hankins, president and CEO of ArtsinStark. “And it's exactly people like Tom who make that possible.”

For more information about the Annual Arts Campaign or the County Arts Council, visit ArtsinStark.com or call 330- 453-1075.