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**ARF TRANSFORMS NEWLY RENOVATED THRIFT AND TREASURE SHOP
INTO STUNNING DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE**

Leading Interior Designers Create Beautiful Rooms to Raise Funds for Animals in Need on Long Island

(New York, NY – May 5, 2011) On **Saturday, May 28th** the **Animal Rescue Fund of The Hamptons** (www.arfhamptons.org) will kick-off Memorial Day weekend with an exciting preview cocktail party at the newly renovated **ARF Thrift and Treasure Shop** in Sagaponack. To celebrate its grand re-opening, the Thrift Shop will be transformed into an incredible **designer showhouse** featuring **nine rooms styled by some of New York's most illustrious interior decorators**. The event is Chaired by leading designer **Sandra McConnell** along with Honorary Chairs **Joanne Breyer** and **Kathy Rayner**. All proceeds will benefit ARF and the organization's dedicated work to find loving homes for animals in need.

Over the past year a significant expansion and renovation was completed at the ARF Thrift Shop. The new shop is a priority of the organization's long term strategic planning as almost 20% of ARF's annual operating budget comes from funds raised by the Thrift Shop. The renovation was built by John Hummel & Associates, Architect Rob Smith of Hollenbeck & Smith, and Landscaper Charlie Marder of Marders. With the new expansion, ARF will be able to accept more donations and continue to successfully fund the organization's animal Adoption Center.

"The funds raised by the Thrift & Treasure Shop are vital to ARF and its mission to provide for the health and welfare of dogs and cats on the East End of Long Island. We are so appreciative of the hard work that went into the renovation, and the amazing creativity of the designers that will help bring the shop to life," said **Sara Davison**, Executive Director of ARF.

The line up of top designers who will create rooms for this inaugural showhouse, includes: **Geoffrey Bradfield, Thomas Britt, Alex Papachristidis, Marshall Watson, Mark Fichandler, Peter Hallock, Thomas Samet, Priscilla Ulmann, Sandra McConnell and Sharon Zambrelli**. All the designers are animal lovers who are donating their time and expertise to help the ARF cats and dogs, who are less fortunate than their own beloved pets. Each room will feature Thrift Shop items and pieces donated from the designers' own collections. Adding to the occasion, ARF has received the entire contents of a large private estate in Amagansett, including beautiful Asian themed furniture and decorative arts. Unlike traditional showhouses, every item in the ARF designer showhouse will be for sale.

Over 200 guests from the Hamptons social and design community are expected to attend the preview party. Visitors will enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as they mingle and shop among the themed rooms. Alex Papachristidis will design a sumptuous dining room incorporating furniture from the thrift shop, Geoffrey Bradfield will design a Writer's Lair, Mark Fichandler will create an artists studio with artwork from the store, and Sandra McConnell and Sharon Zambrelli will showcase a stylish woman's dressing room featuring designer clothing and accessories from the Thrift Shop.

“The idea that there are endless new opportunities for things which once seemed old is an important theme for this evening. The Thrift Shop renovation has created an amazing space and we’re hoping our designs help showcase how thrift store pieces can be used creatively in any home,” said event chair and interior designer **Sandra McConnell**.

The evening will also include a silent auction featuring exclusive design and animal-themed items and packages. Joining the celebration -- and the true stars of the evening -- will be a selection of ARF dogs and cats that will be available for adoption and looking to find a loving new home.

Doors open for the exclusive **Preview Hour** ticket holders at 5:00 PM. **General Admission** opens at 6:00 PM. Following the preview party, the Thrift Shop will charge a \$10.00 entry fee to the general public (children free) on Sunday, May 29th and Monday, May 30th. All purchases will stay in place until Tuesday, May 31st at which point they will be available for pick up.

Event Details:

What: ARF Thrift Shop Designer Showhouse

When: **Saturday, May 28th**
Preview Cocktail Party
5:00 PM Exclusive Preview Hour \$250
6:00 PM General Admission \$150

Sunday, May 29th and Monday, May 30th
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
General Admission \$10.00
Children free

Location: ARF Thrift & Treasure Shop
17 Montauk Highway
Sagaponack, NY 11962

Tickets: Gloria Callender
631-537-0400 ext. 216
Gloria@arfhamptons.org

Website: www.arfhamptons.org

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About ARF: The Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons provides for the health and welfare of dogs and cats on the South Fork of Long Island and Shelter Island through shelter and adoption services, medical care, spaying and neutering programs, community outreach and humane education. Founded in 1974, ARF is the leading animal Adoption Center on the East End. For more information, please visit www.arfhamptons.org