

A.R.T. RECEIVES \$12,000 GRANT FROM CHRISTOPHER AND DANA REEVE FOUNDATION FOR FLYING EYE PROGRAM

Belle Mead, New Jersey – Artistic Realization Technologies (A.R.T.) is proud to announce that it has received a \$12,000 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. The award was one of almost 100 grants totaling almost \$800,000 awarded by the Reeve Foundation to nonprofit organizations nationwide that help improve opportunities, access and day-to-day quality of life for individuals and their families. Since inception of the program in 1999, a total of 1,454 grants have been awarded, totaling nearly \$12 million.

A.R.T. will use the grant, along with funds provided by the Hyde and Watson Foundation, the Henry H. Kessler Foundation, Roy Lichtenstein, and the Bunbury Company, to raise its breakthrough system that will empower paraplegic children and young adults to gain uncompromised creative control of photography.

"Using the A.R.T. Flying Eye the user can explore the world, make unlimited choices of where to go, what to look at, and how to hone in for the still image they want to capture," said A.R.T. director Tim Lefens. "Past attempts to bring the power of photography to those who have severe mobility challenges have been well-intentioned but are extremely limited, to the point they are not really free at all. We designed the Flying Eye so it would operate with the infinite subtle choices the able-bodied person has when they explore and capture aspects of the world."

The Flying Eye operates by wireless video. From their Princeton University A.R.T. studio, the artists of the program can monitor what the camera sees, and direct its motion and vantage. The camera will no longer be limited to shooting only from the laptray of the user's wheelchair. With the A.R.T. Flying Eye, the artist can direct a cameraperson anywhere in the world that can link wirelessly to the internet. For instance, a Princeton A.R.T. artist can direct a camera on the streets of Paris. From this freedom, the user's exploration will result in high-resolution still photographs which will be exhibited at professional art galleries.

"The first kids to try out the prototype nearly fainted with excitement once they saw what they could do with the Flying Eye," said A.R.T. studio assistant Rosalind Engle. "You have to imagine how it would feel to be able to see things from vantages they normally do not have access to. Through the camera they can walk, climb a tree, look at a stream from an inch above its surface. They can go through thick woods, climb a sand dune. Like I said, the first kids nearly fainted when they used it."

"It is an honor for A.R.T. to receive a Reeve Foundation grant," said Lefens. "This grant will not only make it possible to launch the Flying Eye this fall; winning a grant from the highly respected Reeve Foundation will increase A.R.T.'s visibility and open the doors to other funding opportunities, enabling us to reach more people with our breakthrough programs. On behalf of the A.R.T. artists present and future, I thank the Reeve Foundation for making this possible." "As the late Dana Reeve once stated, our Quality of Life grants are about freedom," said Peter T. Wilderotter, president of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. "A.R.T. provides hope for individuals living with paralysis and their caregivers who are everyday striving to improve their

physical and emotional well-being. We are honored to help A.R.T. continue the heartfelt mission that Dana Reeve herself started back in 1999.”

The Reeve Foundation’s Quality of Life grants are awarded in 3 categories, Actively Achieving, Bridging Barriers, Caring and Coping, and fund programs across the globe that help people with paralysis become more fully integrated members of society. Some of the grants are funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Cooperative Agreement number 1U59DD000338). Numerous grants were also made possible through generous financial donations from ICAP, the world’s leading interdealer broker, and Alseres Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a leader in the development of diagnostic and therapeutic products for central nervous system disorders and nerve repair, specifically in spinal cord injury.

About the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information, please visit our website at www.ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-225-0292.

About A.R.T.

A.R.T. creates systems that enable the uncompromised creative self-expression of people with the most severe physical challenges, most of whom do not speak or have the use of their hands. As a consequence, their thoughts and feelings remain locked within. The key to their liberation lies in the power of Art, not as therapy or recreation, but as a critical means of articulate self-expression. The Flying Eye program will join A.R.T.’s existing painting, sculpture, and music programs.

“After fifteen years of sharing our beautiful breakthrough I think we’re reaching the tipping point,” said Lefens. “Where we used to make cold calls which resulted in some degree of resistance, groups around the country are now calling us. This is good, because A.R.T. is not just about getting real individual power to those with severe physical challenges, but because our society will not be fully civilized until they understand how its truly the inside, not the outside of a person that counts. They need to understand that the lives of the kids and young adults we work with are as rich and sophisticated, if not more so, than theirs. With this surge of new support from such respected foundations, and the interest from disabilities groups around the country, it looks like our breakthrough may finally be breaking through.” For more information, please visit www.artrealization.org or call 908-359-3098.