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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Professional Photographer Kevin Kubota Awarded 3rd Annual Monte Zucker Humanitarian Award at WPPI 2009

Bend, OR (April 7, 2009) – Professional Photographer Kevin Kubota, of Bend, Oregon's Kubota PhotoDesign Inc. (www.KubotaPhotoDesign.com), was recently awarded the 3rd annual Monte Zucker Memorial Humanitarian Award during the Wedding & Portrait Photographer's International (WPPI) convention and trade show held in Las Vegas, NV.

This prestigious annual award is presented to individuals who are significantly involved in their community and who do a lot of charitable work. Award recipients must also show innovative ways of raising money for charitable causes.

Kevin Kubota was honored with this award for several reasons including his local community outreach as well as his global activities. Kevin is the founder of the Family Photo Day in the Park in Bend, Oregon. Seven years ago, Kevin began working with local agencies (Habitat for Humanity, Family Resource Center, Head Start, Sparrow Clubs, and others), to identify families in need and offer them free family portrait sessions.

This Family Photo Day has grown to include not only Kevin and his staff but other local photographers willing to generously give of their time and resources to offer those in need family portraits. Every October, photographers including Kevin and families gather in Bend, Oregon's Pioneer Park for their free portrait sessions. What started as 30 families participating has grown to over 200 families in 2008. Kevin, an internationally recognized instructor, also promotes this idea to other photographers he meets through speaking engagements, trade shows and his Bootcamp workshops and he encourages them to give back to their local communities by providing services like this. To help them do so, Kevin has made a special do-it-yourself kit available to interested photographers that contains sample documents with easy-to-follow steps on how to create a similar event in their own community. Many have already followed in his footsteps.

As Kevin's business has grown, so has his desire to give back to the community and beyond. In 2007, Kevin offered a scholarship to his week-long Bootcamp education program. So many worthy individuals responded that he created a second Bootcamp program in December 2007 in which he selected 20 individuals who exhibited a need (and who also could point to their own charitable backgrounds) to receive a full scholarship to the December Bootcamp (they just had to pay for their transportation to and from the event location). To this day, Kevin and his staff stay in touch with many of the December Bootcamp winners who unanimously say the event was a life changing experience.

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And on a global level, for one week in July 2008, Divisions of Kubota PhotoDesign Inc., including Kubota Image Tools, AsukaBook and Red Boot Design, closed their doors so several members of the company's staff could visit Rwanda, Africa to experience first-hand what they could do to help the orphaned children of this east-central African country halfway around the world. Kevin frequently donates a portion of his sales to help these Rwandan orphans and to support other charities close to his heart and will continue to raise funds to help this community in need. In addition, Kevin encouraged employees unable to travel to Rwanda to spend their week away from the office doing something charitable on a local level.

Kevin is also involved in raising funds for Thirst Relief International (TRI). TRI exists to provide the basic necessity of clean drinking water to those in need around the world. Kevin leads by example. He educates and encourages others to use their photographic or other skills in their community and beyond. To learn more about Kevin Kubota's charitable causes, please visit: <http://www.kubotaactionhero.com/> . And to view his images from a recent humanitarian trip to Rwanda, please visit: <http://vimeo.com/3842303?pg=embed&sec> .

About Kevin Kubota

Kevin Kubota has been photographing since 1980, and doing it professionally since 1990. He is a wedding and portrait photographer with images that speak to the heart - filled with emotion, joy, intimacy, and impact. His studio photographs clients in his home base in Central Oregon, as well as worldwide.

In 2008, Kevin Kubota was named one of the "Top 10 Wedding Photographers in the World" by *American Photo Magazine*. His wedding, portrait and commercial photography Web site is www.KubotaPhotoDesign.com. His wedding and portrait images have also been featured in magazines such as *Rangefinder*, *Studio Photography & Design*, *Popular Photography*, and *Shutterbug*, as well as in photography books such as, *The Best of Portrait Photography* and *The Best of Wedding Photojournalism* by Bill Hurter, and others. His images have been featured in Nikon advertisements, calendars, trade show displays, and he was selected as the Nikon "Legend Behind the Lens" #2 on the Nikon website.

Kubota Image Tools (www.kubotaimagetools.com), a division on Kubota PhotoDesign, grew from the digital experience of Kevin who began pioneering the field of completely digital wedding photography in the 1990s. As one of the first photographers to master digital imaging, Kevin became inspired to share his experience and natural teaching ability with other photographers. He has successfully trained thousands of photographers to make the digital transition and continuously empowers existing digital photographers with new, effective workflow ideas and outstanding Photoshop® techniques.

Kevin founded the original Digital Photography Bootcamp®, which consistently sells out, and his single-day programs fill the house at private engagements and international photographic conventions. In addition to teaching, Kevin has created software products to train photographers and make their work more efficient.

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