



## **NAIAS and Photojournalist Linda Solomon Announce “Pictures of Hope” Exhibit Featuring Young Photographers From COTS**

**DETROIT, December 16, 2016** – The North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) and nationally recognized and award-winning Photojournalist Linda Solomon will showcase a photographic field of dreams at NAIAS, featuring the hopes of 20 Detroit children who call COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter) their home. The “Pictures of Hope” exhibition, sponsored by NAIAS and the Detroit Auto Dealers Association (DADA), will be displayed at NAIAS on Sunday, Jan. 8 – Sunday, Jan. 22.

“Picture of Hope” will begin taking shape at COTS (located at 26 Peterboro in Detroit) on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. when Solomon gives budding photographers – ages 7 to 20 – an overview of photography basics. Her lesson will conclude with the surprise presentation of a digital camera to each young photographer (donated by Walgreens) and the pairing of each with a mentor from a list of prominent Detroiters. The youngsters’ photo assignment: go out and capture their hopes and dreams through the lens of a camera.

Media are invited to attend Solomon’s Dec. 17 tutorial session with the kids and their mentors, including Henry Ford Health System CEO Nancy Schlichting, FCA Global Design Chief Ralph Gilles, U.S. Representative Brenda Lawrence and Detroit Police Commander Todd Bettison, to name a few.

Solomon, a Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame recipient, began “Pictures of Hope” in 2005 and has since brought the program to 50 U.S. cities, affording hundreds of homeless children the chance to share their innermost feelings and dreams through photography.

“‘Pictures of Hope’ is an opportunity for courageous young children to showcase their dreams and to touch the hearts of hundreds of thousands of NAIAS attendees from across the globe who will see these powerful photographs,” said Sam Slaughter, 2017 NAIAS Chairman. “For some of these youngsters and their families, this will be the first time they have ever seen an event of this magnitude, and what could be more exciting than to have their talents displayed at one of the largest auto shows in the world.”

The young photographers and their families will be celebrated at the “Pictures of Hope” exhibition on Friday, Jan. 20. There, NAIAS will present the children with a medal and a commemorative copy of their photograph. Solomon reports that an “important announcement” pertaining to one of the budding photographers will be made that day. The group will also have the opportunity to tour the auto show as guests of NAIAS.

“The photo exhibition of the children’s heartfelt ‘Pictures of Hope’ will build their self-esteem by showing each child and youth how much their dreams matter,” said Solomon explaining that each child is asked to write down his or her dreams before going out to photograph things, places and people that symbolize these dreams. She added, “I am so very grateful to NAIAS and the DADA for giving Detroit children and youth living in COTS a life-changing opportunity and the chance to have their hopes and dreams displayed for thousands to admire.”

COTS CEO Cheryl P. Johnson stated that having the young photographers exhibit “Pictures of Hope” at NAIAS is “an unforgettable experience that will help shape and inspire their future.”



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She added that the photo exhibition at NAIAS dovetails with the organization's objectives. "The project beautifully complements our Passport To Self-Sufficiency framework two-generation approach – which helps families set goals to create and build a better future."

**About the North American International Auto Show**

Now in its 29th year as an international event, the NAIAS is among the most prestigious auto shows in the world, providing unparalleled access to the automotive products, technologies, people and ideas that matter most – up close and in one place. Administered by executive director Rod Alberts, the NAIAS is one of the largest media events in North America, and the only auto show in the United States to earn an annual distinguished sanction of the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles, the Paris-based alliance of automotive trade associations and manufacturers from around the world. For more information, visit [naias.com](http://naias.com).

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**2017 NAIAS Dates:**

The Gallery – Saturday, January 7, 2017

AutoMobili-D – Sunday-Thursday, January 8-12, 2017

Press Preview – Monday-Tuesday, January 9-10, 2017

Industry Preview – Wednesday-Thursday, January 11-12, 2017

Charity Preview – Friday, January 13, 2017

Public Show – Saturday-Sunday, January 14-22, 2017

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