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Jake Jabs Announced as Grand Marshal for 35th Annual Parade of Lights

Jake Jabs, President of American Furniture Warehouse and lifelong philanthropist, has been named the 2009 Grand Marshal for the 9NEWS Parade of Lights. Children representing the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Easter Seals Colorado will accompany Jabs in his stagecoach as he rides in the Parade both nights.

Jabs has been a major supporter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) for 25 years through the American Furniture Warehouse 56-Hour Sale. During this time, he donated approximately $1,000,000 to MDA, which is dedicated to curing muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases by funding worldwide research. Jabs has also supported Easter Seals Colorado for over 30 years, contributing over $2 million in donations and in-kind gifts. Easter Seals provides exceptional services, education, outreach, and advocacy so that people living with autism and other disabilities can live, learn, work and play in our communities. Leaders of both organizations feel Jabs is a worthy recipient of the Grand Marshal title:

"Jake is a business leader in every sense of the word," said Debra DeBonis with MDA. "He is committed to his business *and* the community. He is an inspiration to us all and a true hero to all the families he has touched."

"Jake truly cares about people, especially children in our community with special needs," said Lynn Robinson, President and CEO for Easter Seals Colorado. "He continually strives to make a difference in the lives of others through his unselfishness, integrity and warm heart."

The 9NEWS Parade of Lights, presented by American Furniture Warehouse and GO Automotive Group, will take place Friday, December 4th at 8 pm and Saturday, December 5th at 6 pm. For more information or to purchase Grandstand tickets, please visit www.DenverParadeofLights.com.

The Parade Needs Your Help

For 35 years, the parade has been one of Colorado's biggest and brightest holiday traditions. The parade is produced by a non-profit organization, Downtown Denver Events which is part of the Downtown Denver Partnership family. In addition to the generous support of the parade sponsors, donations from the community are critical in raising enough funding for the parade.

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Donations of any amount will help preserve this free community event. You can help continue the legacy of the Parade of Lights by making a tax deductible contribution online at www.DenverParadeOfLights.com or by calling 303.534.6161 for more information.

*The 35th Annual **9NEWS Parade of Lights**, presented by **American Furniture Warehouse** and **GO Automotive Group**, takes place Friday, December 4 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.*

In addition to 9News, American Furniture Warehouse and GO Automotive Group, additional sponsors for the Parade include Associate Sponsor Humana, and Supporting Sponsors AfterOurs Urgent Care, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado State University, The Crazy Merchant, Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc., Faith Bible Chapel and the Archdiocese of Denver, HICO Distributing of Colorado, KeyBank, Mobile View, Stay the Trail, Wells Fargo and Xcel Energy. Media sponsors are The Denver Post and KOSI 101.1, 99.5 The Mountain, Alice 105.9 and Studio1430 KEZW AM.

The Parade is produced by Downtown Denver Events, Inc. (DDE). DDE is the Downtown Denver Partnership family's community events non-profit organization that organizes and promotes public parades, festivals, concerts, exhibits and other events within the downtown Denver area.

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