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**burton + BURTON® Announces Albert Maslia Memorial Award Winner**

Bogart, GA (January 29, 2016)

burton + BURTON® recently announced Mercy Hospital Gift Shop of St. Louis, MO, as the winner of the inaugural Albert Maslia Award. The award showcases excellence in visual merchandising for hospital gift shops and honors the memory of Albert Maslia, a member of the AmericasMart® Atlanta management team. Mr. Maslia served as the Managing Director of Retail Services for AmericasMart and was a longtime friend of the hospital gift shop industry. Maslia passed away in April 2014.

The award, sponsored by burton + BURTON in January 2016 at The Atlanta International Gift & Home Furnishings Market®, bestowed \$500 to Mercy Hospital. The contest was open for all hospital gift shops to showcase their best visual merchandising displays. The winning entry was chosen by a panel of industry experts. In addition to the monetary prize, a trophy was awarded to be displayed in the winner's store.

The judges said Mercy Gift Shop's use of space and color as well as the accessibility of the displays set it apart, and made it a favorite choice.

Maxine Burton, founder and president of burton + BURTON, said, "We congratulate Mercy Gift Shop and we are excited to see the great response we had in this first year. We look forward to this award growing in the coming years and continuing to honor Albert's memory."

**About burton + BURTON**

*Founded in 1982, burton + BURTON is a family-owned and -operated business that has grown into one of the largest wholesale distributors of balloons and coordinating gifts in the world. In addition to its showroom at the company's headquarters in Bogart, GA, the company also maintains permanent showrooms at AmericasMart in Atlanta, Dallas Market Center, and Las Vegas World Market Center.*

*For more information, visit [www.burtonandburton.com](http://www.burtonandburton.com).*

**Media Contact:**

Steve Rose  
Communications Manager  
800.241.2094 ext. 2233  
[srose@burtonandburton.com](mailto:srose@burtonandburton.com)

325 Cleveland Road  
Bogart, Georgia 30622  
800-241-2094  
fax 800-880-9759  
[www.burtonandburton.com](http://www.burtonandburton.com)