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**HARTMARX REPORTS BETTER THAN EXPECTED FOURTH QUARTER EARNINGS;  
FULL-YEAR NET EARNINGS INCREASE 48%; COMPANY ANTICIPATES  
ANOTHER STRONG YEAR WITH 12% - 20% EARNINGS IMPROVEMENT IN 2006**

CHICAGO, January 26, 2006 - - Hartmarx Corporation (NYSE: HMX) today reported operating results for its fourth quarter and fiscal year ended November 30, 2005. Full year sales increased 2.0% to \$598.2 million in 2005 compared to \$586.4 million in 2004. Net earnings in 2005 improved 48% to \$23.6 million or \$.65 per basic share and \$.63 per diluted share compared to net earnings of \$15.9 million or \$.45 per basic share and \$.44 per diluted share last year. Fourth quarter revenues of \$156.5 million increased 3.2% over last year and net earnings of \$7.3 million increased 27.5%, representing \$.20 per basic and diluted share. Last year's fourth quarter revenues were \$151.6 million with earnings of \$.16 per basic and diluted share.

Homi B. Patel, chairman and chief executive officer of Hartmarx, commented, "We are very pleased that we surpassed our net earnings improvement goal of 30% - 40% established at the beginning of the year. We also achieved our revenue goal of a low to mid-single digit increase. Both our men's and women's operating segments achieved sales and earnings increases compared to 2004. Operating margins improved from our ongoing changes to product mix, refinements to our off-shore sourcing and efficient utilization of owned manufacturing facilities. While we also reduced debt slightly, net of acquisitions, we were disappointed that we fell well short of our debt reduction goal. This will once again be a major priority for us. We have established a 2006 goal of a 20% reduction in debt, excluding the impact of acquisitions, share repurchases or dividends. We actively continue to pursue acquisitions that meet our clearly defined criteria."

"Based on industry reports, we remain cautious about retail business in the immediate future, especially in the first half of fiscal 2006. However, we are confident that the Company is well-positioned for sustained mid-term and longer-term earnings growth. We currently anticipate that our fiscal 2006 revenues will increase in the low to mid-single digit range, which reflects the Simply Blue women's operation for the full year compared to one month in fiscal 2005. We expect 2006 full year diluted earnings per share to increase in the range of 12% - 20%. We will continue eliminating those products or programs that do not meet our margin requirements and replacing them with higher margin alternatives," Mr. Patel concluded.

The Misook business, acquired in July 2004, generated fiscal 2005 sales of \$33 million and contributed approximately \$.17 to diluted earnings per share; in fiscal 2004, Misook represented approximately \$11 million in sales and \$.04 of diluted earnings per share. Simply Blue Apparel, acquired at the end of October, 2005, contributed sales of \$1.5 million and incurred a small operating loss. For the full year 2006, the Simply Blue business is anticipated to contribute approximately \$20 million in incremental sales and \$.05 - \$.07 to diluted earnings per share. This earnings contribution is expected to be offset, in part, by \$.03 - \$.04 per diluted share pursuant to the adoption of FASB No. 123R, effective for the Company's fiscal year beginning on December 1, 2005, related to the expensing of stock options.

The full-year gross margin rate in 2005 improved to 33.9% compared to 32.4% in 2004. The current year reflected changes to product mix, which included the revenues attributable to the Misook acquisition for the full year. Men's Apparel Group's gross margins also improved and reflected efficient utilization in owned tailored clothing manufacturing facilities and opportunistic off-shore sourcing. Selling, general and administrative expenses of \$159.1 million declined from \$160.2 million on the higher sales, representing 26.6% of sales in 2005 compared to 27.3% in 2004. Operating earnings were \$45.5 million in 2005 compared to \$32.4 million in 2004.

Interest expense for the full year increased to \$7.2 million in 2005 from \$6.5 million in 2004, principally attributable to increased rates. Total debt at November 30, 2005 was \$119.5 million, which reflected a small reduction from last year excluding the \$21 million paid for Simply Blue Apparel, compared to \$102.0 million at November 30, 2004. The 2005 year-end debt level reflected higher tailored clothing inventories, attributable in part from earlier receipts and second half in-stock business impacted unfavorably by high gas prices and the uncertainty of the aftermath of the hurricanes. The increase in inventory levels is anticipated to moderate during fiscal 2006. To-date, there have been no share repurchases pursuant to the October, 2005 authorization.

Fourth quarter revenues of \$156.5 million in 2005 increased 3.2% compared to \$151.6 million in last year's fourth quarter. Operating earnings increased to \$13.9 million compared to last year's \$11.0 million. After consideration of interest and income tax expense, fourth quarter net earnings were \$7.3 million or \$.20 per diluted share in 2005 compared to \$5.8 million or \$.16 per diluted share in 2004.

Hartmarx produces and markets business, casual and golf apparel under its own brands, including Hart Schaffner Marx, Hickey-Freeman, Palm Beach, Copley, Cambridge, Keithmoor, Society Brand, Racquet Club, Naturalife, Pusser's of the West Indies, Royal, Brannoch, Riserva, Sansabelt, Exclusively Misook, Barrie Pace, Christopher Blue, Wörn, L. Paseo and Aura. In addition, the Company has certain exclusive rights under licensing agreements to market selected products under a number of premier brands such as Austin Reed, Tommy Hilfiger, Kenneth Cole, Burberry men's tailored clothing, Ted Baker, Bobby Jones, Jack Nicklaus, Claiborne, DKNY Donna Karan New York, Pierre Cardin, Perry Ellis, Jeffrey Banks, Jhane Barnes, Lyle & Scott, Golden Bear, Jag and Starington. The Company's broad range of distribution channels includes fine specialty and leading department stores, value-oriented retailers and direct mail catalogs.

The comments set forth above contain forward-looking statements made in reliance upon the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “continue,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “should” or “will” or the negatives thereof or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees as actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements. The statements could be significantly impacted by such factors as the level of consumer spending for men's and women's apparel, the prevailing retail environment, the Company's relationships with its suppliers, customers, licensors and licensees, actions of competitors that may impact the Company's business, possible acquisitions and the impact of unforeseen economic changes, such as interest rates, or in other external economic and political factors over which the Company has no control. The reader is also directed to the Company's periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for additional factors that may impact the Company's results of operations and financial condition. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

**-- Financial Summary Follows --**

**HARTMARX CORPORATION**  
**--- UNAUDITED FINANCIAL SUMMARY ---**  
(000's omitted, except per share amounts)

<b>Statement of Earnings</b>	<b>Three Months Ended November 30,</b>		<b>Twelve Months Ended November 30,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Net sales	\$ 156,469	\$ 151,634	\$ 598,167	\$ 586,413
Licensing and other income	380	608	2,118	2,445
	156,849	152,242	600,285	588,858
Cost of goods sold	103,099	94,363	395,680	396,272
Selling, general & administrative expenses	39,816	46,849	159,063	160,207
	142,915	141,212	554,743	556,479
Operating earnings	13,934	11,030	45,542	32,379
Interest expense	2,044	1,840	7,182	6,474
Earnings before taxes	11,890	9,190	38,360	25,905
Tax provision	(4,550)	(3,435)	(14,805)	(10,040)
Net earnings	\$ 7,340	\$ 5,755	\$ 23,555	\$ 15,865
Earnings per share:				
Basic	\$ .20	\$ .16	\$ .65	\$ .45
Diluted	\$ .20	\$ .16	\$ .63	\$ .44
Average shares: Basic				
	36,739	35,591	36,433	34,927
Diluted	37,370	36,665	37,212	36,286

\* \* \*

<b>Condensed Balance Sheet</b>	<b>November 30,</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Cash	\$ 1,257	\$ 2,356
Accounts receivable, net	123,058	119,033
Inventories	153,263	130,139
Other current assets	37,775	28,626
Current Assets	315,353	280,154
Other assets, including goodwill and intangibles	82,282	67,166
Deferred income taxes	23,797	34,167
Intangible pension asset	35,963	39,411
Net fixed assets	37,250	27,643
Total	\$ 494,645	\$ 448,541
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 99,841	\$ 98,307
Total debt	119,513	102,032
Accrued pension liability	29,445	26,416
Shareholders' equity	245,846	221,786
Total	\$ 494,645	\$ 448,541
Book value per share	\$6.62	\$6.16

Selected cash flow data:

Capital expenditures	\$14,588	\$4,180
Depreciation of fixed assets	5,111	5,559
Amortization of intangible assets, long-lived assets and unearned employee benefits	3,308	3,801

This information is preliminary and may be changed prior to filing Form 10-K. No investment decisions should be based solely on this data.