Kids Fight Drugs and Create "Positive Possibilities" Art for 2003 Calendar

Alexandria, Virginia - Joining the fight against drug use, kids in grades K-12 from across the nation living in affordable housing properties participated in the annual AHMA Drug-Free Poster contest of the National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA). Winners were selected July 31 at NAHMA headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

NAHMA members manage more than 50 percent of all privately owned, government-assisted housing and provide quality affordable housing to over two million Americans.

Thousands of entries were submitted to local affordable housing management associations (AHMA's) which represent housing properties for low and moderate-income children, adults and seniors. From more than 100 regional winners, an independent committee of judges selected 15 entries that depicted this year's theme, "Positive Possibilities." Winning poster art will be featured in the NAHMA 2003 AHMA Drug-Free Kid Calendar. Orders for the full-color calendar will begin being accepted in August. Quantity personalized calendars are available, contact NAHMA for details.

The grand prize winning art will appear on the calendar cover and the winner will enjoy an all-expense paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. in October and take part in a special event at a NAHMA national meeting.

A special award will be presented during the NAHMA national meeting to honor Krysten Fernandez (first ever in contest history) 4 time national level winner.

The other winning entries will each be featured on a page of the 13-month calendar. All winners receive educational scholarships from the NAHMA Educational Foundation, in addition to regional recognition from their local AHMA.

The Winners:

Grand prize winner was Shirley Perez, 9, Los Angeles, CA, representing AHMA Pacific Southwest. Shirley lives in housing managed by Brackenhoff Management Group. Other winners were:

· Margaret Thompson, 16, Houston, TX, representing AHMA East Texas. She resides in housing managed by Wesley Chapel Foundation.
· Adeline Jo Pepin, 14, Cody, WY, AHMA Mountains Plains Desert (AHMA MPD), Tamarack Property Management Co.
· Sarah Tucker, 9, Missoula, MT, AHMA MPD, Tamarack Property Management Co.
· Yuliya Timonichev, 18, Roseville, CA, Association of Housing Management Agents of Northern California and Nevada (AHMA NCN). Eugene Burger Management. Corp.
NAHMA advocates for affordable quality multifamily housing, by bringing nationwide attention to the need for preserving decent, safe and sanitary housing, and advocates for establishment of industry standards for affordable housing professionals. NAHMA encourages creation of public/private partnerships among property owners and managers, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Congress and others with an interest in preserving affordable housing.