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Thirteen Youth Living in Subsidized Housing Win National Poster Contest

Washington, D.C. (October 1, 2014) – Today, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) announced the winners of the association’s annual “What Home Means to Me” poster contest. The grand prize winner and 12 national winners represent youth from across the country in grades kindergarten through 12 who currently live in affordable rental housing administered by a NAHRO member housing authority or community development agency.

The grand prize and national winners are: Ayanna Henderson, Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (Va.); Adilene Barrios, McAllen Housing Authority (Texas); Audreann Artis and Katana Mosson, Albion Housing Commission (Mich.); Dianara Peña, Klamath Housing Authority (Ore.); Ericka Alston, Beaufort Housing Authority (S.C.); Harmonee Williamson-Cooper, Greensboro Housing Authority (N.C.); Amy Le, Oakland Housing Authority (Calif.); Felicia Fox, Dedham Housing Authority (Mass.); Joy Wise, Aurora Housing Authority (Colo.); Elvira Salazar, Cameron County Housing Authority (Texas); Shauna Stanton, Millsboro Village Apartments, MHFP East Coast Management Company (Del.), and Nohemi Taguite, Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (Calif.).

“This year, more than 250 entries were submitted to NAHRO,” said Preston Prince, CME, president of NAHRO. “The annual poster contest is an opportunity for youth to voice what having a safe, clean and supportive living environment means to them.”

The winners’ artwork will be featured nationally in the association’s annual “What Home Means to Me” calendar and publications. They will also receive $500 and $100 U.S. Savings Bonds respectively. Additionally, the grand prize winner and a member of her family will be honored at NAHRO’s legislative conference in Washington, D.C. in March 2015.

The annual poster contest is part of NAHRO’s Housing America Campaign, which raises national awareness concerning the need for and importance of safe, sustainable and affordable housing by educating national decision makers and community leaders; advocating on behalf of lower-income families and individuals, veterans, children and seniors, and persons living with disabilities; and empowering clients and residents to share how accessing affordable, stable housing has impacted their lives.

“Thirty-seven percent of persons living in public housing are children,” said Saul N. Ramirez, Jr., chief executive officer of NAHRO. “In a time when the U.S. Department of Education estimates that 1.3 million homeless children were enrolled in U.S. schools in 2012-2013, it is critical that we, as a nation, continue to fight to add to and preserve our existing affordable rental housing portfolio.”

Established in 1933, NAHRO, is a membership organization of 23,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO’s membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

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