



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NAHRO and the HOUSING AUTHORITY of YAMHILL COUNTY Announce Winners of
Housing America's Annual "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest**
12 winning posters out of 82 entries will comprise the 2013 Housing America Calendar

WASHINGTON, D.C. and McMinnville, OR. OCTOBER 10, 2012. The National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) and the Housing Authority of Yamhill County are pleased to announce the completion of the annual Housing America's 2012 Poster Contest – "What Home Means to Me". The contest, which has been held annually since 2007, collects original drawings, accompanied by thoughts about "what home means to me", from children living in affordable housing developments throughout the United States. The 2012 contest yielded 82 finalists from Housing Authorities nationwide. Each year, 12 winners are selected from around the country, along with several honorable mentions. The 12 winning entries are used to create the annual Housing America Calendar. This year's February page winner is 12-year-old Ester Prieto of Lafayette, Oregon.

Ester's poster features the drawing of a house with a happy, close family underneath a rainbow and rays of sunshine, with the caption "My picture is about a house full of cooking made out of love". Her explanation behind her entry reads:

"Home is a place for cooking made from your heart. This picture was of my whole family at the dinner table getting ready to eat cupcakes. We all enjoy mom's meals because she makes them with all her heart. Our home protects my family from the danger from the outside world. I drew this picture because I love my family with all my heart. The rain falls the Sun comes out, it's shining bright as the light. The rainbow is all of the beautiful colors in the world. The flowers blossom like apples on a tree. That is what home means to me."

"The 'What Home Means to Me' calendar has become a tradition with NAHRO, its housing authority and redevelopment agency members, and Housing America," said Saul Ramirez, Jr., NAHRO CEO. "Young residents across the nation compete, and the number of entries grows exponentially each year. It's heart-warming to see, in living color and in their own words, how home and family enable these children to enjoy comfort, security, peace and happiness that truly nurtures their hopes and dreams."

Ester's poster will comprise the February page of the 2013 Housing America Calendar; the 11 other winners will appear on the additional months' pages. The posters will be displayed at NAHRO's Legislative conference held in Washington, D.C. in March 2013, and will be sold at an auction to raise money for savings bonds for the winners. To learn more about the Housing America program, see all winning entries, and purchase a calendar, please visit www.housingamericacampaign.org/what-home-means-to-me.html.

ABOUT NAHRO

Based in Washington, DC, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials is a professional membership organization comprising approximately 23,000 housing and community development agencies and officials throughout the United States who administer a variety of affordable housing and community development programs at the local level. NAHRO members own or administer nearly 1 million units of public housing (a vast majority of the nation's inventory), 1.65 million units of tenant-based Section 8 housing, and over 700,000 units of other assisted housing. In all, NAHRO's members provide housing for more than 7.9 million low-income people. www.nahro.org

ABOUT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF YAMHILL COUNTY

The Housing Authority of Yamhill County was established in McMinnville, Oregon on January 10, 1951 by resolution of the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners. The Housing Authority operates as an independent local public agency under federal and state law. The [mission](#) of the Housing Authority is to provide the opportunity for decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing to lower-income families residing in our community. Between the Housing Authority of Yamhill County, the Yamhill County Affordable Housing Corporation and the Yamhill Housing Resource Center, we are able to provide assistance to almost 2,000 local families monthly and put over \$7 million dollars back into the local economy annually. www.hayc.org/home/index.html

ABOUT HOUSING AMERICA

NAHRO's Housing America campaign is designed to educate the American public about the critical role safe, decent and affordable housing plays in all aspects of life – for individuals, families, children and young adults, seniors, persons with disabilities, and our veterans, as well as for our communities and the national economy. Its mission is to raise national awareness of the need for and importance of safe, decent and affordable housing through stimulating partnerships and encouraging the ongoing commitment on the part of federal, state, and local government. www.housingamericacampaign.org/index.html#/.

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