



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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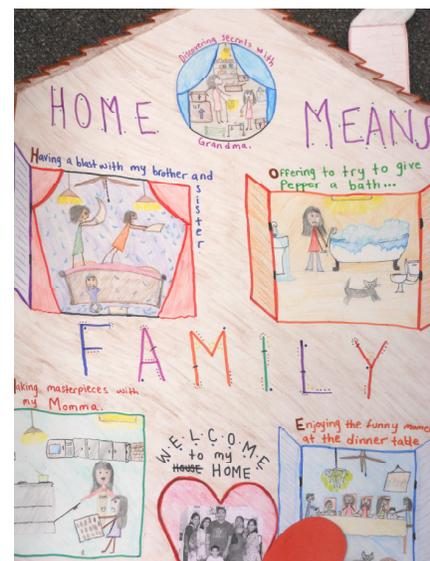
**NAHRO and the Housing Authority Announce Winners of
Housing America’s Annual “What Home Means to Me” Poster Contest**

12 winning posters out of 82 entries will comprise the 2013 Housing America Calendar

(WASHINGTON, D.C. and San Bernardino, CA.) The National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) and the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSb) 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 received 82 entries 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 June page winner is 17-year-old Wajiha Akif a resident of affordable housing in Redlands, California.

Wajiha’s poster (pictured on the right) features the drawing of a house with open windows. Through the windows, the viewer can see activities occurring inside the home. These include a family sharing a meal, baking with her mother, playing with her siblings, and giving her dog a bath. The doorway reads, “Welcome to my home; the word ‘house’ is crossed out. Below the welcome is a heart containing a photo of Wajiha’s family. Her explanation behind her entry reads:

“My home is my everything. Home is where I spend time



with my family. Therefore my poster represents why having fun with the ones you love is what a true “HOME” is all about, because I don’t care if I’m in a mansion or living in a teepee, if my family is with me then I’m happy. In my poster, I’ve associated each room to the best memories I have had in that place. Walking in the kitchen, I’m always greeted by the sugary aroma of cookies my momma bakes - mmm. . . It is said that home is where the heart is, so that’s why the doorway to my home always brings me joy. A “house” is a structure for inhabitants, but it’s not truly a home until one cherishes the memories shared with their FAMILY.”

“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.”

Wajiha’s poster will comprise the June 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.

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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 THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino is one of the nation’s most progressive housing authorities. As the largest provider of affordable housing in the County, we proudly serve in excess of 30,000 people, most of whom are seniors, disabled individuals, and children. We also work on providing our families with the resources, skills, and motivation to achieve their personal goals. For more information on the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, please visit www.hacsb.com.

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, local and government. www.housingamericacampaign.org/index.html#.