



IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

2011 "WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME" POSTER CONTEST

May 2, 2011 – The Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials (VAHCDO) is sponsoring a "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest for elementary, middle, and high school students who live in Virginia.

The Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials (VAHCDO) will judge the poster contest according to originality, neatness, and depiction of this year's theme – "What Home Means to Me". Complete contest rules are available at: www.vahcdo.org. The deadline to enter is Friday, July 29, 2011.

VAHCDO will award \$100 Savings Bond for first place, \$50 Savings Bond for second place and \$50 Savings Bond for third place for each of the three selection categories. VAHCDO will forward the first place poster in each category to the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) to compete in a national competition.

NAHRO will assemble a Blue Ribbon panel of judges. These judges will select four honorees in each of the three categories, plus an overall Grand Prize honoree. National honorees will receive a \$100 savings bond and the Grand Prize honoree will receive a \$500 savings bond. The Grand Prize honoree and his or her family will also be provided with transportation to and lodging at NAHRO's March 2012 National Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. National honorees will receive a framed certificate. National NAHRO will develop a 2012 calendar based on the 13 nationally-selected posters and will seek permission to display the selected entries in the U.S. Capitol.

The "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest is part of the 2011 Housing America Campaign and is a collaborative effort of VAHCDO and NAHRO. The poster contest is for children associated with affordable housing and community development programs owned or administered by national NAHRO member agencies.

The Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials (VAHCDO), established in 1941, is a membership organization representing agencies, and localities, throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, that use federal, state, and local funds for the development, construction, and maintenance of housing. VAHCDO is dedicated to preserving and maintaining Virginia's existing housing resources; improving the health and living standards of the people of Virginia; and developing new housing opportunities throughout the Commonwealth.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), established in 1933, is a membership organization of 21,000 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.

For more information about this year's "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest, contact Carol Lemon, Administrative Assistant at (757) 523-0401.

For more information about the Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials (VAHCDO), contact Rick Hanson, Vice President for Public Affairs and Membership, rhanson@james-city.va.us at (757) 259-5340.

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