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SAFENOWPROJECT RECOGNIZES WINNERS IN A LOCAL SAFETY ART CONTEST

TRENTON, MO... Throughout the month of April, SAFENOWPROJECT participated in many activities, such as classroom education, community forums and regional keynote speeches, to generate safety awareness in commemoration of Child Abuse Awareness Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Crime Victims' Rights Week. An art contest accompanied a community forum and classroom education forum held at Milan Elementary School and Grundy R-V Elementary. Children in Kindergarten thru third grades were asked to use their imagination to draw a self portrait showing how they feel when they feel safe. This drawing can also include items, people or places that help make them feel and be safe.

Fifty seven entries to the art contest were submitted by students, many depicting themselves at home or school, with a parent, or simply by a religious cross. A voluntary panel of judges Denny Chestnut, Tony Ferguson, Denise Guile and Bob Merchant scored these drawings (artist names were not identified on the front of the artwork) independently and winners were selected as follows:

Top Picks:

Amanda, age 8
Hailey, age 9
Emily, age 8
Gabrielle, age 8
Isaiah, age 7
Braiden, age 6

Honorable Mention:

Jodi, age 8
Zoe, age 6
Justus, age 8
Sammie, age 8
Alex, age 8

Amanda's entry was selected as the Grand Prize winner and the top six winners will be awarded with a certificate and a Family Fun Pack, worth \$39.95 consisting of two hours of bowling for up to six persons, a large pizza and a pitcher of soda donated by **The Fast Lane** in Chillicothe, Missouri. Brian Westphal, Marketing Director for The Fast Lane stated, "The Fast Lane is very happy to step in and support the kids in this worthwhile event. We like to promote strong family values and by donating our Fun Pack bowling packages as prizes, it allows the winners to enjoy quality family time in a fun atmosphere".

Students participating in the April community forum and classroom education programs were introduced to TAKE FIVE: SAFER STEPS TO BE SAFE NOW™, a safety and prevention program developed exclusively by SAFENOWPROJECT. Margaret Bullens, the Founder and Executive Director of SAFENOWPROJECT taught these skills to students in an effort to make them less vulnerable to all forms of victimization, including child sexual assault.

The SAFENOWPROJECT also intends to provide all winners and the honorable mention entries with a free copy of an upcoming music CD being produced for SAFENOWPROJECT that features the song "S A F E R". This song features the TAKE FIVE: SAFER STEPS TO BE SAFE NOW™ safety education material developed and taught in conjunction with this art contest event. This music CD is being professionally recorded and will be released in the coming weeks. For more information, please contact SAFENOWPROJECT at 660-339-7477, or visit their website at www.safeNOWproject.org.