

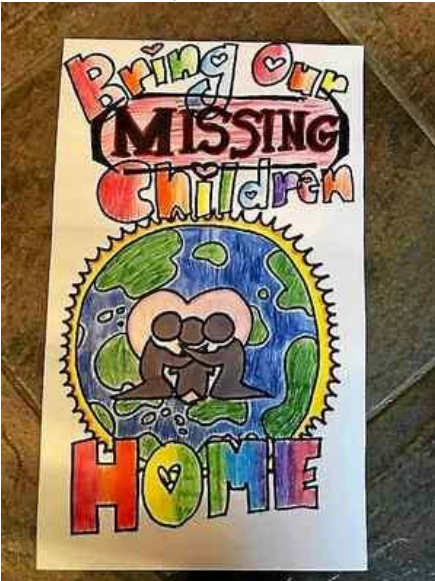
Clinton Twp. student's art wins national recognition



Eden Hoffmann, 11, recently won the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest, earning a trip to Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of BRENDA HOFFMANN

By Nicole Tuttle, For The Macomb Daily

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Eden Hoffmann of Clinton Township recently won the 2018 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest with her poster art, completed in marker and colored pencil. Photo courtesy of BRENDA HOFFMANN

National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest winner Eden Hoffmann not only had the artistic talent necessary for the competition but also an understanding of the subject matter's seriousness.

"Both her dad and I are state troopers, so she obviously is aware that sometimes we have to look for missing children," said Eden's mother, Brenda Hoffman. "Unfortunately a lot of kids go missing not only in Michigan but throughout the country and world."

Eden Hoffmann, 11, a fifth grader at Huron Elementary School, won the 2018 Missing Children's Day Poster Contest, the Michigan State Police Missing Persons Coordination Unit announced last month.

A Clinton Township resident, she will receive a free trip to Washington, D.C. the week of May 21 to participate in the National Missing Children's Day commemoration.

Eden's poster design was selected as the Michigan contest winner, then moved on to the national level to win out against art from students of 37 other states.

“I kind of really always liked art. I’ve competed more in contests in my school but I decided to expand my horizons and try one of the bigger contests,” Eden said.

Brenda Hoffmann said her daughter spent her winter break working on the poster using colored pencils and markers, so it would be ready to meet the entry due date in January.

With the annual theme of Bringing Our Missing Children Home, the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) invites fifth graders to participate in a yearly poster contest, according to the program’s website.

The contest is meant to create an opportunity for schools, law enforcement, and child advocates to discuss the issue of missing and exploited children and to promote child safety.

The winning poster is the inspiration for the National Missing Children’s Day poster and artwork for the following year.

Jolene Hardesty, the missing children’s clearinghouse manager with the Michigan State Police, runs the state poster competition in Michigan. To recognize the first-, second- and third-place winners of the state level poster competition, Hardesty invited finalists to Michigan State Police Headquarters in Dimondale on April 18.

On May 5 Eden was recognized at the Michigan’s Missing Persons Day event hosted by Michigan State Police at Madonna University in Livonia before the upcoming trip to Washington, D.C.