

CONTEST CORNER



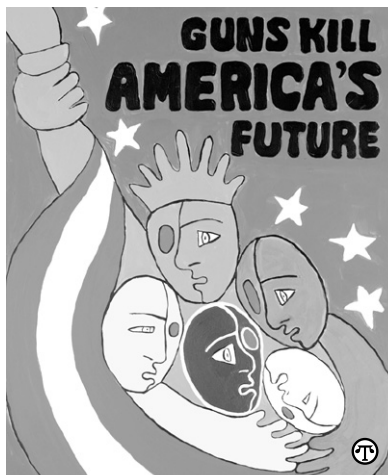
Teens Draw The Line On Gun Violence

(NAPSA)—Three years after the Columbine High School shooting tragedy, students throughout the nation have expressed their feelings about gun violence—and their hopes for a more peaceful future—through their artwork. They participated in a unique poster contest. The effort is significant because statistics show nine young people a day die due to gun violence.

The “Drawing the Line on Gun Violence” National Poster Contest, sponsored by the Alliance for Justice and its youth advocacy program Co/Motion, attracted more than 1,000 entries from U.S. high school students.

Students were instructed to create artwork expressing their feelings about the effects of gun violence on themselves and their communities. They were judged by a panel of experts from the art world and the anti-gun violence community, including a Smithsonian Museum curator, an NYU photography professor and a youth activist who lost her best friend in the tragedy at Columbine High School.

The judges based their decisions on concept, artistic value, originality, creativity and effectiveness as a poster theme. The Grand Prize Winner was Theo Milonopoulos of Los Angeles, whose poster is now the centerpiece of an anti-gun violence billboard in L.A. Says Milonopoulos, “Following Ennis Cosby’s murder a block from my school and a horrific bank shootout near my neighborhood, I noticed that no one was doing anything to stop the shootings. Soon came school shootings across the country. I realized that this is a kids’ issue, and that kids need to be



Students created posters expressing their feelings about the effects of gun violence on their community.

responsible for making effective changes in our communities to rid them of the fear of gun violence.”

Second prize went to Michael Sinks, a junior at Prince George High School in Richmond, Virginia. Sinks’ idea for the piece “No Nutritional Value” won over the judges with its clear message and advanced use of computer graphics.

“Nine young people a day die as the result of gun violence. Art can convey the immensity of these events very powerfully. We started the contest because young people’s voices are so important—especially in this issue,” says Alliance for Justice President Nan Aron. “The tremendous response is a statement of the students’ concern about the threat of gun violence.”

To see all the powerful artwork by all of the winners for yourself, visit www.allianceforjustice.org and click on the Co/Motion icon.