

AURORA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

11059 E. Bethany Drive, Suite 200, Aurora, Colorado, 80014 • 303-617-2300 • Fax 303-617-2397 • www.aumhc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Students Honored Through Art Contest Celebrating "Living Life to the Fullest"

Aurora, CO, October 20, 2010 – At this year's Annual Celebration and Art Contest we received 429 pieces of art from 27 local schools. 12 students received top honors for their entries in the 4th Annual "Living Life to the Fullest" Art Contest, sponsored by Aurora Mental Health Center.

The awards were presented at Aurora Mental Health Center's 35th Annual Celebration, and 4th Annual Art Contest and Show. The event took place on Wednesday, October 20th at the Red Lion Hotel Southeast in Aurora. This is a community event that has, over years, helped bring the community together with Aurora Mental Health Center, and allows us to make available a wealth of information about mental health and wellness to a broad spectrum of our population.

"The popularity of our art contest has grown each year, as has attendance from the community," said Dr. Randy Stith, CEO and Executive Director of Aurora Mental Health Center. "I am continually amazed at the quality and creativity of the work these students produce. To see the pride these kids have in their accomplishments makes our annual art contest an event I look forward to all year."

Students from schools throughout the community submitted their best art pieces based on the theme: *Happiness is _____!* All of the art submitted was displayed and recognized at the event and the winning students in each category were awarded prizes.

Winning students include:

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|-------------------|------------|--|
| Grades K-3 | 1st place: | A.J. Bartik , 1 st Grade, Strasburg Elementary School for <i>Happiness is riding in a tractor! John Deere!</i> |
| | 2nd place: | Gabriella Ello , 3 rd Grade, Coyote Hills Elementary School for <i>Happiness is Imagining the Impossible.</i> |
| Grades 4-6 | 1st place: | Alicia Moralez , 5 th Grade, Kenton Elementary School for <i>What do you want to be in the future – Self Portrait.</i> |
| | 2nd place: | Jyselle Martinez , 6 th Grade, Lotus School for Excellence for <i>Happiness is my grandma teaching Japanese to me.</i> |
| Grades 7-8 | 1st place: | Isabella Ello , 8 th Grade, Fox Ridge Middle School for <i>Happiness is...Finally getting a dog.</i> |

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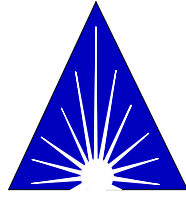
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- 2nd place: **Christian Frank**, 7th Grade, Liberty Middle School for *Happiness is...Having Fun.*
- Grades 9-12** 1st place: **Beryl Allee**, 11th Grade, Eaglecrest High School for *Happiness is never out of reach.*
- 2nd place: **Amanda Alvarado**, 12th Grade, Crossroads Center for *Happiness is loving yourself and finding your goofy and random personality absolutely beautiful and honest.*

Director's Choice Awards, selected by our executive director, Dr. Randy Stith, went to:

Briana Pasillas, 1st Grade from Wheeling Elementary School for *Happiness is working as a hair stylist when I grow up.*

Samantha Smith, 5th Grade from Coyote Hills Elementary School for *Happiness is...Art and Chocolate.*

Jasmine Middleton, 7th Grade from The Challenge School for *Happiness is the people you're with.*

Mandi Quinn, 11th Grade from Eaglecrest High School for *Love is the Root of all Happiness.*

About Aurora Mental Health Center

The Aurora Mental Health Center is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Currently the center provides services to more than 14,000 people annually. Services are provided by 17 specialty clinics, located in eight counseling and specialized service centers, six residential facilities, public schools, two county departments of human services, in-home and foster homes, and at other community locations.

Contact:

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Aurora Mental Health Center

303.617.2300

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