

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AURORA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER HOLDS ITS 41st ANNUAL CELEBRATION & 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STUDENT ART CONTEST AND SHOW.**

*Aurora Mental Health Center's 10th Annual Art Contest received 387 student entrants from 32 different schools and educational organizations.*

**Aurora, CO, October 2016** – At this year's Annual Celebration and Student Art Contest, we received 387 pieces of artwork from students representing 32 different schools and educational organizations. Eleven students received top honors for their entries. Awards were given for first and second place in each of four-grade categories; K-3, 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12; two students received awards for Photography and one student won the selection for our 2016 Holiday Card. Five additional entrants were singled-out for the Director's Choice Award selected by our CEO and Executive Director, Dr. Randy Stith.

The event was held on October 19th at the Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center site. This is a community event that has, over the years, helped bring the community together with Aurora Mental Health Center and allows the Center an opportunity to make available vital information and services regarding mental health and wellness to a broad spectrum of the population.

Ten years ago we initiated the Art Contest and Show as a way to make more families aware of our services, and to highlight the creative talent of students in our community. To our delight, the Art Contest and Show has developed a life of its own. "Our art contest has become a much anticipated event with the schools and educational organizations, and its popularity has grown each year, as has the 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 artwork these students produce. To see the pride these kids and their families have in their accomplishments makes our annual contest an event I look forward to all year."

Students from schools and educational organizations throughout the community submitted their best art pieces representing this year's theme: *What Brings Joy to Your Life, or Happiness to Others?* 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:

**Grades K-3** 1st place: **Lane Wegher**, Indian Ridge Elementary School,

- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: *for Drawing Makes Me Happy*  
**Intellia Bowen**, Belleview Elementary School,  
for *Mountain*
- Grades 4-6** 1<sup>st</sup> place: **Brynley Lane**, Hemphill Middle School,  
for *Scout gives me Joy!*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: **Annie Nuetzel**, High Plains Elementary School, for  
*Sunset Duet*
- Grades 7-8** 1<sup>st</sup> place: **Celine Choi**, Challenge School, for  
*The Journey of My Art*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: **Annabelle Smith-Daigle**, Fox Ridge Middle School,  
for *The Future, Imperfect*
- Grades 9-12** 1<sup>st</sup> place: **Vivienne Blanco**, Eaglecrest High School, for  
*Unlocked*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: **Emma Brown**, Eaglecrest High School, for  
*Ganz Allein*

#### **Photography**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: **Gerardo Aguilar**, Aurora Central High School, for  
*Gold Sky*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: **Christian Castaneda**, Aurora Central High  
School, for *Ganz Allein*

#### **Holiday Card Winner**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: **Olivia Nuetzel**, High Plains Elementary School,  
for *Snowy Sky*

The Director's Choice Awards, selected by our CEO and Executive Director, Dr. Randy Stith, were given to:

- Grades K-3:** **Ivy Hankins**, High Plains Elementary School, for *Happiness is a work of Art!*
- Grades 4-6:** **Mary Harris**, Independence Elementary School, for *Hello, It's I, It's me Mary*
- Grades 7-8:** **Gabrielle Driggs**, Fox Ridge Middle School, for *The Joy of my Life*
- Grades 9-12:** **Helen Kim**, Cherokee Trail High School, for *Rainy Days*
- Photography:** **Anna Mugongo**, Aurora Central High School, for *JOY*

[About Aurora Mental Health](#)



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Aurora Mental Health Center is a private, nonprofit organization that has been serving our community with a wide range of mental health services since 1975.

We offer 29 specialty programs located in 12 counseling and specialized services centers in Aurora, and provide services in public schools, county departments of human services, jails and courts, medical offices, and in homes and other community locations. We strive to help as many children, adults and families as possible live life to the fullest.

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