
News Release

For Immediate Release

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13 Children with Kidney Disease Win National Calendar Contest

Artists to be Honored in Washington, D.C., October 7-9

ROCKVILLE, MD, Sept. 12 — thirteen children with kidney disease will travel from around the nation to Washington, D.C., the weekend of October 7-9 to be honored for their artistic achievement and their personal courage.

These 13 artists, who range in age from 7 to 17, won the American Kidney Fund's 10th annual calendar art contest. Their heartfelt, imaginative drawings have been chosen to illustrate the Fund's 2006 "Kid"ney Calendar, which will be distributed to 100,000 contributors nationwide.

Each calendar artist is either on dialysis or is the recipient of a kidney transplant. One of the artists recently became the world's youngest recipient of a dual pancreas-kidney transplant. The weekend in the Nation's Capital gives these children a chance not only to be recognized for their talents, but also to spend time with other children and families who are coping with the same health issues.

The weekend is an all-expense-paid trip for the children and their families. The group will be given a welcome dinner courtesy of the Hamburger Hamlet in Crystal City on Friday, Oct. 7. On Saturday, they will tour the White House and take a guided bus tour of Washington. Saturday evening, there will be a recognition dinner in their honor at the Crystal City Marriott. Amgen is the signature sponsor for the weekend.

"The 'Kid'ney Calendar weekend is a highlight of the year for all of us at the Fund," said Don Roy, Executive Director of the Fund. "It is an inspiration to meet these young artists who have faced enormous challenges in their lives with such a positive attitude. We are grateful to our many contributors who make it possible for us to help children with kidney disease."

Founded in 1971, the American Kidney Fund provides direct financial assistance to kidney patients in

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need and education for those with and at risk for kidney disease. Ninety-five cents of every dollar the Fund spends goes directly to programs and services for kidney patients. In 2004, the Fund served more than 55,000 low-income kidney patients, distributing more than 100,000 grants totaling \$57 million. The Fund has been named a Gold Star Charity by Forbes Magazine, one of America's Best Charities by Reader's Digest, has received a rating of A Plus from the American Institute of Philanthropy, and has been named a Four-Star Charity by Charity Navigator for five years running.

The 2006 "Kid"ney Calendars cost \$6 each plus shipping and can be ordered by calling 800-638-8299 or by visiting www.kidneyfund.org. Proceeds support the Fund's many services and programs.

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