

YOUNG ARTISTS Competition: Beginning May 7th, World AIDS Orphans Day

MAPLEWOOD, N.J., May 7 /PRNewswire/ -- Worldwide Orphans Foundation invites young artists from across the country to submit creative works that raise awareness of the thousands of children who are orphaned by HIV/AIDS around the world each day. The grand-prize winner will have the opportunity to exhibit his or her art during the WWO 2009 Gala in New York City on October 26, 2009, and receive two tickets to attend the annual gala. The three runners-up will receive \$50 gift certificates from Blick Art Materials, and all winners will have the opportunity to have their art displayed at a NYC gallery and made into WWO greeting cards for the 2009 holiday season. Entry is open to young artists ages 15 to 21 who are US residents. Artists can enter their work through July 15, 2009.

The mission of WWO is to transform the lives of orphaned children by taking them out of anonymity and helping them become healthy, independent, productive members of their communities. With over 15 million children worldwide orphaned due to the loss of one or both parents to AIDS, our focus on this group of orphans is critical. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, over 12 million children have been orphaned by the AIDS pandemic and experts believe that millions more orphans remain unaccounted for in India, China and Russia. By 2010, the number of AIDS orphans worldwide is expected to reach at least 20 million. Through the transformative power of visual arts, WWO extends this creative arts opportunity to youth across America to help raise awareness of AIDS orphans around the world. WWO has a commitment to helping all orphans around the world overcome overwhelming obstacles, and give them back the most precious gift in the world -- their childhoods.

- All candidates must submit their entry online **between May 7 and July 15, 2009** and mail their original artwork by the end of July.
- An online contest registration will be available on the WWO website www.wwo.org/support/events.php
- Entries can be a sketch, drawing or painting that brings awareness to AIDS orphans around the world.
- Winners will be announced the week of September 7th, 2009 and contacted by email. The results will be posted at www.wwo.org.
- An on-line gallery on the WWO website is planned for public viewing of the artwork and will be posted after the announcement of the winners.

SOURCE Worldwide Orphans Foundation