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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **RNC 2016 Earth Day Competition Results 'Lots of great ideas, to the point messages'**

Newaygo, MI—April 22, 2016

Recycling for Newaygo County's Second Annual Earth Day Competition results are in, and once again local students have demonstrated their boundless creativity, said Executive Director Linda Ritz White.

She said she was pleased with the impact intended, and the important messages the students are sending through their artistic expression.

Recycling for Newaygo County (RNC) has named two winning entries and two honorable mentions in the public service announcement category, and one winning entry and one honorable mention in the art category. Ritz White explained that winners are not necessarily named in every category, but are based on merit and entries received.



Top place finisher in High School Public Service Announcements is "Earth Day Every Day," by a team of four 16-year-old 10<sup>th</sup> graders from Grant High School. Team members are Luke Cook, Michael Frey, Jordan Patin, and Leo Torres.

Karen Baird, Executive Director for the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce, judged the public service announcements. She said while there were several great videos, "Earth Day Every Day" really stood out.

"Nice statement they made in this video – earth day is every day! Had a lot of great ideas on how to help save the earth, with clean and to the point messages for these. This video kept your attention," said Baird.

18-year-old McKenna Miller, in 12<sup>th</sup> Grade at Grant High, came in a close second and gets an honorable mention, since the contest provides for a single winner per category. Baird called McKenna's entry, "Earth Day—Be the Change", "a very nice presentation and done very well with lots of information on recycling".

Taking top place in middle school public service announcements is "Think Different" by 14-year-old 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Noah Krouse and Spencer White, Fremont Middle School.

"This video had a great message," said Baird. "The creators did a very professional job and the message was very mature. It was easy to understand, and they were direct to the point for calling you to action about thinking differently to recycle."

Receiving honorable mention in the middle school age group is Dora Resendiz, also an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 14-year-old Fremont Middle School student, for her entry, "Recycle—Help the World". Baird said Dora's video was clear and to the point about what to do to help our world.

Winning for her poster in the Elementary School division of the Creative Arts category is Serenity Elgie, a nine-year-old 4<sup>th</sup> Grader at Velma Matson Elementary School in Newaygo. Honorable mention goes to Mia Janke, also a 9-year-old 4<sup>th</sup> Grader at Velma Matson.

Art judge Brenda Huckins Bonter, cultural arts coordinator at True North, said students were creative in their use of recycled materials to make their posters more eye-catching.

"The winning posters were chosen because of their visual impact, use of space, and clarity of message. It is obvious they are enthusiastic about recycling. Congratulations to their teachers for encouraging them to participate."

The competition kicked off in 2015, when Recycling for Newaygo County (RNC) invited elementary, middle, and high school students to submit their creative works in celebration of Earth Day each April 22. Categories are Creative Arts—in the form of a poster this year; Written Word—poetry this year; and Video and Performance Arts—asking students to create a video public service announcement.

Prizes are a certificate of achievement and \$25 cash for winning entries, and for honorable mention, a certificate and a duck in the Duck Race at RNC's 2016 Recycling Fair June 5 at Fremont Lake Park. The 2 pm race features a \$300 top prize for the first duck in, and \$20 prizes for each of the next 10 ducks in.

"We were thrilled to receive so many videos from the kids this year," said Ritz White. "Last year we didn't get any, but we started earlier this year, which gave them more time to produce them. Very impressive work, and we really appreciated the efforts of the teachers in working with the students and getting the videos loaded to Youtube on behalf of their creators."

Teachers of the winning video entries are Kyle Morrison at Grant High School and Loren Edwards at Fremont Middle School. The teacher of the winning artists is Jill Young.

Unfortunately, said Ritz White, no poetry was submitted this year. "We will have to see what we can do next year to inspire students to write for Earth Day."

Winning entries and entries receiving honorable mention can be viewed on RNC's website, [recyclingfornewaygocounty.org](http://recyclingfornewaygocounty.org), and on their Facebook page. Links are provided for all the public service announcements, and the winning art is pictured. Photos of the winners will also be posted online after award presentations.

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