



Grand Island Youth Wins National Poison Prevention Week Poster Contest

The National Poison Prevention Week Council has announced the winners of its annual poster contest. The Council's First place older division winning poster, titled "Send the Right Message," was created by Mariola Sanchez of Grand Island, NE. Mariola's poster will be showcased across the country and featured in the Council's March 2010 Poison Prevention Week activities. Mariola is a student of Mrs. Diane Meyer at Knickrehm Elementary in Grand Island. Mrs. Meyer is no stranger to having students who excel at these contests. One of her former students won this national contest in the past.

The National Poison Prevention Week Council, in conjunction with the American Association of Poison Control Centers, sponsors the poster contest each year as part of a year-round effort to educate communities about ways to prevent accidental poisonings in the home. Mariola's poster was selected from entries that were submitted to local poison centers throughout the states. The contest is open to two groups, children ages 8 and under and children ages 9-13.

"Children can be a powerful force for education within their family. We are delighted to work with the Poison Control Centers to encourage children to participate in educating their community about this important issue," said Kristin Lolmaugh, Chair of the Council.

More than 2 million poisonings are reported each year to the 61 Poison Control Centers across the country. More than 90 percent of these poisonings occur in the home. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than 6 years of age. And, poisonings are one of the leading causes of death among adults.

Poison centers aim to help eliminate thousands of needless and costly emergency room visits by offering free and confidential emergency poison consultation to callers of the nationwide hotline, 1-800-222-1222.

The contest was held by the Nebraska Regional Poison Center and the National Safety Council Greater Omaha Chapter for Poison Prevention Week during March 2009.

If you have any questions please contact the Nebraska Regional Poison Center at (402) 955-5555 in the Omaha area or toll-free at 1-800-222-1222 (in Nebraska and Wyoming)

The Nebraska Regional Poison Center is sponsored by the Nebraska Medical Center and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.