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**PLANNED PARENTHOOD AWARDED 36 LOCAL STUDENTS FROM 9 SCHOOLS
AT 15th ANNUAL “FAMILY IMAGES JURIED ART CONTEST & EXHIBIT”**

*Awards for artwork depicting meaning of family on display through May 19 at
Cornell Museum of Art & History in Delray Beach*

South Palm Beach County, FL—Drawing literally and artistically from family life, artworks of 92 students attending nine South Palm Beach public and private schools from grades K-12 were selected for entry into the 15th Annual Planned Parenthood Family Images Juried Art Contest & Exhibit sponsored by Planned Parenthood of South Palm Beach & Broward Counties, Inc.

Thirty six prizes were awarded to the top four artworks in each grade K-12 on March 29 at a reception held at the Cornell Museum of Art & History in Delray Beach for all participating students, their families and art teachers. Best in Show award went to Shari Hirsch, fifth grader at Freedom Shores Elementary School in Boynton Beach. She received a \$150 check from the Planned Parenthood affiliate with a matching check to her school’s art department for supplies and a \$25 gift certificate to her art teacher Mrs. Bordonaro.

Entries are first judged by art teachers who select a maximum of 15 original artworks per school for submission to the juried art show. The pictures point toward early art talent and often poignant, personal feelings about family in their depiction of love, loneliness, tenderness, longing, enjoyment and hardship.

Students are allowed to create in oils, acrylics, pastel, chalk, charcoal, crayon, pen and ink, water colors and/or mixed media collage. The average artwork size is 17” x 23” with matting. Each entry also includes a title and sentence or two by the student explaining the meaning of the piece.

A panel of four judges decided on first, second, third place and honorable mention winners in each grade level for best in various categories, including one Best in Show award. Submissions are judged on artistic talent and creativity as well as subject matter and text describing the piece’s meaning. “There’s so much sadness and happiness squeezed into these rooms,” commented Lesley Lynch while judging the artwork and accompanying statements.

The four judges, who have served on the judging panel for several years now, represent a cross section of art and therapy professions. They are: artist Lesley Lynch (Delray Beach), the museum’s director Gloria Adams (Delray Beach); Ricky Siegel, Planned Parenthood vice president of education, training & counseling services (Boca Raton); and Craig Siegel, clinical art therapist in Boca Raton and Dade County.

Shari Hirsch, Best in Show winner, entitled her artwork “Family Memories” and wrote “*This collage shows how happy my family was before my parents got divorced.*”

2/Planned Parenthood Family Images Art Show

“This is the reality today. Family structure is not the same today as it was in ‘Leave it to Beaver’ days,” said judge Craig Siegel about the Hirsch piece and many others in the exhibit. “I think it speaks for a lot of children and about an idealized family.” Cornell Museum Director and judge Gloria Adams voted for the Hirsch artwork “because I think it’s a strong piece artistically.”

“Art is a powerful tool of expression,” said Ricky Siegel. “I hope visitors see the therapeutic value and emotional expression of this exhibit by kids who typically are not able to talk about such feelings.”

The original paintings and drawings depicting each student’s personal family life experience are on display through May 19 at the Cornell Museum of Art & History in Delray Beach at the Old School Square complex, corner of Atlantic and Swinton Avenues. Hours are 10:30 am to 4:30 pm Tuesday - Saturday; and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm Sundays (closed Sundays May-Sept.). Entrance is free for children under 14 and museum members; \$4 for seniors and students 14-21; and \$6 for adults.

During the two months Family Images will be on view in the second floor Children’s Gallery, art supplies and tables are set up in the gallery for visiting children to create their own Family Image artwork inspired by the pictures in the exhibit.

The Palm Beach County School District has approved the Planned Parenthood Family Images Juried Art Contest & Exhibit as a voluntary and continuing annual event. “This is always a wonderful opportunity for teachers to give students guidance, skills and a chance to express the meaning of family in their lives through art,” said Ricky Siegel, Family Images coordinator. “Art teachers and parents thank our Planned Parenthood affiliate for the opportunity to develop student awareness and expression of family experiences. The process for students is often revealing, even emotionally healing,” he said.

In addition to the Best in Show Award to student, teacher and art department, other prizes from Planned Parenthood at each grade level are: first place winners receive \$50, second place \$30, third place \$20 and honorable mention winners receive \$10. All students are awarded a Certificate of Participation.

The nine participating schools this year are: Toussaint L’Ouverture High School (Delray Beach); two elementary schools in Boca Raton: Verde and Hammock Pointe; four elementary schools in Boynton Beach: Freedom Shores, Crosspointe, Galaxy and Citrus Cove; one elementary school in Lake Worth (South Grade, 1 student); and Don Estridge High Tech Middle School (Boca Raton, 1 student).

Planned Parenthood promotes quality family life, responsible parenting and responsible choices. It is dedicated to public affairs programs like this one in the community. For more information call the Planned Parenthood Boca Raton office: **561/394-3540 x204 and visit www.lovecarefully.org** . For the Cornell Museum of Art & History, call **561/243-7922** and visit www.oldschool.org

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Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest, most trusted voluntary reproductive health organization. We believe everyone has the right to choose when or whether to have a child and that every child should be planned, wanted and loved. Opened in 1975, Planned Parenthood of South Palm Beach & Broward Counties, Inc. operates five quality, affordable health centers for women, men and teens and two T.E.E.N. Society programs.

For information, call: **561/394-3540x212 or 954/480-9744x212 and visit www.lovecarefully.org**

(more)

The Cornell Museum of Art and History, part of the Old School Square Cultural Arts Center, is housed in the restored 1913 Delray Elementary building. In addition to regional, national and international exhibits of fine art, craft and American culture, the museum presents art programs for adults and children, artist showcases and demonstrations. Old School Square is a National Historic Site and Florida Cultural Institution also housing the Crest Theatre (in the restored 1925 high school building), a restored 1926 gymnasium, and an outdoor entertainment pavilion. For information, call **561/243-7922** or visit **www.oldschool.org**.

photo captions (photos attached with this post-awards release)

Verde Elementary School (Boca Raton) children with art teacher Sami Davidson

Winners Jenifer Ankney (Hammock Pointe School, Boca Raton) and Alex Loukas (Galaxy School, Boynton Beach) with art teacher Mrs. Varga and Ricky Siegel, Family Images coordinator.

Best in Show winner Shari Hirsch with art teacher Mrs. Bordonaro (Freedom Shores Elementary School, Boynton Beach) and Ricky Siegel

Best in Show winner Shari Hirsch with her artwork.

Photo captions (photos previously sent):

Ricky Siegel among some of this year's entries.

Family Images judges: Craig Siegel, Lesley Lynch, Ricky Siegel, Gloria Adams

Family Images artwork by Charlene Emile, grade 12 at Toussaint L'Ouverture High School (Delray Beach). "Family Divided: *I love and miss my family in Haiti. I have my sister and uncle in America. Something is missing, we are not complete.*"

Best in Show Award: Family Images artwork by Shari Hirsch, grade 5, Freedom Shores Elementary School (Hypoluxo/Boynton Beach). "Family Memories: *This collage shows how happy my family was before my parents got divorced.*"

(more: list of 2007 winners next page)

15th Annual *Family Images*, 2007 – WINNERS

Grade	Prize	Name	School	Art Teacher
K	1 st	Lestanique Woodside	Galaxy(BB)	Varga
	2 nd	Daniella Alvares	Hammock Pointe(BR)	Giveon
	3 rd	Tonia Morales	Hammock Pointe	Giveon
	Hon.	Ilona Averina	Hammock Pointe	Giveon
1 st	1 st	Cassandra Boneta	Galaxy(BB)	Varga
	2 nd	Mollie Blank	Citrus Cove(BB)	Kina
	3 rd	Sabrina Santana	Citrus Cove	Kina
	Hon.	Kellie Apple	Verde(BR)	Davidson
2 nd	1 st	Beatriz Mendoza	Crosspointe(BB)	Sickles
	2 nd	Stephanie Quiles	Crosspointe	Sickles
	3 rd	Eddie Meus	South Grade(LW)	Sickles
	Hon.	Hanna Davani	Cirtus Cove	Kina
3 rd	1 st	Michael Goldman	Freedom Shores(BB)	Bordonaro
	2 nd	Emma Walthers	Verde	Davidson
	3 rd	Sarah Alexandre	Freedom Shores	Bordonaro
	Hon.	Valerie Branch	Freedom Shores	Bordonaro
4 th	1 st	Madison Harte	Freedom Shores	Bordonaro
	2 nd	Halli Blitzer	Freedom Shores	Bordonaro
	3 rd	Michaela Francis	Freedom Shores	Bordonaro
	Hon.	Phoenix Kontain	Hammock Pointe	Walker
5 th	1 st	Alex Loukas	Galaxy	Varga
	2 nd	Jenifer Ankney	Hammock Pointe	Walker
	3 rd	Santiago Rameix	Verde	Davidson
	Hon.	Jennifer Lambert	Hammock Pointe	Walker
8 th	1 st	Mariel Ingber	DEHTMS(BR)	Davidson
9 th	1 st	Casimir Rinus	Toussaint L'Ouverture(DB)	Newton
	2 nd	Leslort Chery	Toussaint L'Ouverture	Newton
10 th	1 st	Geneau Jean Francis	Toussaint L'Ouverture	Newton
	2 nd	Bertuny Pierre-Louis	Toussaint L'Ouverture	Newton
	3 rd	Bencarl Louis	Toussaint L'Ouverture	Newton
11 th	1 st	Yveneau Jean	Toussaint L'Ouverture	Newton
	2 nd	Marie Sejour	Toussaint L'Ouverture	Newton
	3 rd	Lucson Baptiste	Toussaint L'Ouverture	Newton
12 th	1 st	Cherline Emile	Toussaint L'Ouverture	Newton
	2 nd	Macline Desjardins	Toussaint L'Ouverture	Newton
BEST IN SHOW		Shari Hirsch (5 th Grader)	Freedom Shores	Bordonaro

(BR) = Boca Raton

(BB) = Boynton Beach

(DB) = Delray Beach