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Technical contact: Wendy Hausotter, 503-945-9703

Young artists wanted for DHS problem gambling awareness calendar

All Oregon middle school students are invited to submit artwork that could be chosen to illustrate the 2011 Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) problem gambling awareness calendar. Last year more than 1,000 entries were collected. Twelve designs will be selected, one for each month of the year. Entry deadline is March 19, 2010.

This eighth annual art search is conducted in partnership with local problem gambling prevention and outreach coordinators. Students are urged to express their feelings and perceptions about problem gambling through their art. These unique messages are shared with schools and partners statewide.

"Gambling is everywhere and our kids are more exposed than ever before. Right now we estimate that up to 6,300 adolescents have severe gambling-related difficulties in Oregon," said Paul D. Potter, DHS problem gambling services manager. "The calendar will help raise awareness of a problem that affects Oregon teens and adults."

Artwork should illustrate one of ten different messages (see problem gambling prevention Web site, below) and be entered on letter-size white paper with the name of the student artist, grade level, school and city on the back. DHS and its partners will judge the entries. Gift certificates will be awarded to 12 students.

Submit entries to Greta Coe, Human Services Building, 500 Summer St. NE, E86, Salem, OR 97301. Details about the art search, including suggested art themes, are available online at www.problemgamblingprevention.org/art-search.htm.

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