

## West Virginia Human Rights Commission 2017 Fair Housing Poster Contest

April is Fair Housing Month, and in an effort to celebrate and commemorate the Fair Housing Laws in West Virginia, the West Virginia Human Rights Commission is hosting its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Housing Poster Contest. The purpose of the contest is to demonstrate non-discriminatory housing for all people regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, blindness, handicap or familial status. The contest theme is **A LOVING CommUNITY!** Each poster should demonstrate the positive message that all West Virginian's have the right to fair housing and lending practices and, thus, have the right to live free from discrimination in the housing of their choosing.

### Who can enter?

- Open to *ALL* West Virginia Middle School students

### What are the rules and guidelines?

- Only **one** entry per student
- All artwork must be original work done by the student submitting the piece
- No group posters
- Original artwork must illustrate this year's theme: **A LOVING CommUNITY!**
- Minimum size is standard poster paper size 8.5" x 11"
- Maximum size cannot exceed poster paper size 24" x 36"
- The poster can include the theme of the contest in writing but no other writing
  - Except: students may use 5-10 words at their discretion but posters that rely on writing to illustrate the theme will be disqualified.
  - Poster may include the protected classes protected under the state and federal Fair Housing Act
- Poster paper/document must be fully covered in paint (even if there are spaces that you wish to be white, please paint them white)
- Art mediums accepted include crayons, markers, acrylics, water paint, and colored pencils.
- Three-dimensional (3D) pieces will not be accepted
- All submissions must contain the entry form and waiver attached and include: name, school name, grade, teacher name (if applicable), contact information including email, phone number, and address. Please tape the entry form to the back of the poster.
- Do not staple or glue anything to the poster
- Artwork should be done on a flexible material, so it can be rolled for shipping in mailing tube and scanned for reprinting
- Do not fold poster

### What are the prizes?

The top three winners will be chosen by a panel of West Virginia Human Rights Commission employees and co-sponsor representatives, and they will receive:

- **1<sup>st</sup> place - \$250.00**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$150.00**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$100.00**

In addition, the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner's school will receive **\$200.00** for school supplies. (Note: The school's administrative staff has the discretion to determine how the monetary award is spent on school supplies.)

A picture of each contestant's poster will be placed on the West Virginia Human Rights Commission's website at: <http://www.hrc.wv.gov>. All honorable mention posters will also be placed on the Commission's website.

**When is the poster due?**

- **Return entries no later than 5pm on Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**
- **Posters can be dropped off or mailed to:**

**West Virginia Human Rights Commission  
ATTN: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Housing Poster Contest  
1321 Plaza East, Room 108 A  
Charleston, WV 25301-1400**

**All entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, to be considered for top prizes.**

Please **fill out the entry form** below and **send it along with your entry** in order to be considered for a prize. Please be sure information is legible and complete or child will be disqualified.

Entrant's Name: _____
Age: _____ Grade: _____
Home Address: _____ _____
Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____
Parent's Name: _____
Parent's E-Mail: _____
School Name/Address: _____
Teacher's Name _____ Teacher's E-Mail: _____
<b>(Teacher who provided the information to the student)</b>
<i>By signing this form, I hereby grant permission to have my child's name, age, school, and artwork appear in publications distributed by the West Virginia Human Rights Commission.</i>
Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Information for Teachers on Fair Housing**

**What is Fair Housing?** The West Virginia Fair Housing Act states that it is illegal to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing, in the terms and conditions of that sale or rental, or in financing of housing because of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, blindness, disability or familial status (presence of children under the age of 18).

**What are some common examples of Fair Housing violations?**

- An example of housing discrimination occurs when someone tells your family that they cannot rent an apartment or buy a house because they have children.

- A second example of housing discrimination happens when someone tells an African-American or Hispanic family that they have to pay more money for an apartment than a Caucasian family.
- A third example of housing discrimination would be an African American landlord telling a Caucasian couple that the apartment has already been rented when, in fact, it is still available.
- Another example of housing discrimination occurs if a blind person is not allowed to rent an apartment because they have a service dog.
- “Steering” – a realtor only shows apartments or houses in certain neighborhoods that are prominent in a specific race or national origin.

**Purpose of the contest:**

- To create awareness in middle school aged students of the importance of providing equal opportunities to people of all races, colors, genders, etc.
- To creatively express an understanding of today’s fair housing related challenges

**A note to teachers and parents:**

Please note that a parent’s signature is required on each participant’s entry form giving permission for that child’s name, age, school, and artwork to be distributed in publications and displayed at Fair Housing events throughout the state. Entry forms without a parent’s and/or guardian’s signature will be disqualified from the contest.

\*\*\*Original artwork will not be returned to the contestant; however, if the contestant wishes to have their artwork back, they can stop by and/or contact the West Virginia Human Rights Commission at the address listed below after June 15, 2017, to retrieve their artwork.\*\*\*

For more information or with questions or concerns, please contact:

**Tiffany Caldwell, Housing Investigator II**  
**West Virginia Human Rights Commission**  
**1321 Plaza East, Room 108A**  
**Charleston, WV 25301**  
**(304) 558-2616, ext. 76209**  
**Toll-free: 888-676-5546**  
**Fax: (304) 558-0085**

**Sponsored by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund**