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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission: Fair Housing Poem & Poster Contest

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – February 27, 2017 – The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission will be kicking off its 3rd Annual Fair Housing Poem & Poster Contest! The 2017 theme for this contest is “Fair Housing for All: Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” This year's contest includes another format for students to express their creativity, poems!

The purpose of the contest is to educate Cedar Rapids students about fair housing, including the right to obtain housing free from discrimination. The competition is for students in grades K-12. Students will compete in three grade categories: K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. There will be one grand prize winner and two runners-up from each grade category. First prize winners will have an opportunity to win up to \$500 towards post-secondary education, through a College Savings Iowa 529 Plan. For more information about College Savings Iowa, please visit <https://www.collegesavingsiowa.com>. Runners-up will receive Civil Rights “swag bags.”

The contest deadline for submission is Friday, March 31st, 2017 at 5:00 PM. Late entries will not be accepted. Poster entries may be submitted at the following locations: Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, Cedar Rapids Public Library, or Ladd Library. Poems may be submitted via email to civilrights@cedar-rapids.org.

Information packets will be available at all of the above-mentioned drop off locations. To download an information packet and learn more about this contest please visit www.Cedar-Rapids.org/CivilRights. If contest information is needed in another language or any special accommodations are needed, please contact our office at your earliest convenience.

Contestants **must** submit the Applicant Entry Form, included in the information packet, in order to be eligible. If you’d like to learn more about fair housing, please contact the Commission to request a brief presentation or go to the Cedar Rapids Public Library and visit their “Fair Housing” section!

For more information, questions, or concerns contact Keenan Lee via E-mail at k.lee@cedar-rapids.org or via phone (319) 286-3998.