



HAND Children's Essay Contest "Community Heroes"

The Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) invites the students residing in your communities to participate in our Children's Essay Contest! This year we are hosting an essay competition themed **Community Heroes**. HAND encourages you to use this contest as an opportunity to engage your youth in sharing their perspectives. The essay aims to empower students, foster confidence, amplify their voices, and allow them to pen their own stories of community heroism. It's a wonderful opportunity for young writers to shine a light on the unsung heroes in their neighborhoods.

The contest is open to children who attend elementary school (ages 6-12) and reside in properties owned or operated by HAND members. **The community program staff should host its own contest and mail the top entry from each property to:** Courtney Battle, HAND, 1330 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Suite 124, Washington, DC 20036. Completed submissions **MUST abide by the following Contest Guidelines to be eligible for the Grand Prize and Runners-Up awards.**

A \$500 cash prize will be awarded to the winner of the contest at the **33rd Annual HAND Honors**, taking place on June 13, 2024 from 6pm - 9pm at The Kennedy Center. The runners-up will each receive a \$30 gift card and a certificate of participation.

CONTEST GUIDELINES

CONTENT

- ◆ For this year's essay contest, we're looking for inspiring stories about real-life community heroes. **Children are encouraged to choose someone in their community who they have a personal connection with, such as a family member, friend, tutor, teacher, coach, counselor, etc. Remember, the person should not be fictional or someone the child doesn't have a personal relationship with.** Let's celebrate the amazing individuals who make a difference in our communities through the power of storytelling!
- ◆ In 250 words or less, entries must include interpretations of the contest theme, "Community Heroes," responding to one of the following questions:
 - **Who is a hero in your community?** Write about someone who inspires you and explain why they deserve recognition. Share their accomplishments and the reasons behind their inspiring qualities.
 - **Imagine you are a reporter and interview a person who you believe is a community hero.** Discover their story and the difference they have made.

- **Are you a hero in your community?** Share a story about a time you helped someone in your community or describe an idea you have to improve your neighborhood or help others.

- ◆ Entries should be recorded on the pages at the end of this document, typewritten or handwritten in blue or black ink.

REGISTRATION & SUBMISSION

- ◆ The contest is open to children who attend elementary school (ages 6-12) and who reside in properties owned or operated by HAND members.
- ◆ Community program staff should mail the **top entry** to: Courtney Battle, HAND, 1330 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Suite 124, Washington, DC 20036. **The HAND team will only accept ONE entry from each HAND member organization.**
- ◆ All submissions should include a completed entry form stapled to the back of the essay.
- ◆ All essays must be original work.

DEADLINE

Deadline for submission of entries is **March 8th, 2024 at 5:00 PM** (must be postmarked by March 8th). **Late entries will not be accepted.**

AWARDS

- ◆ Grand Prize: A \$500 cash prize will be awarded to the winner of the contest. **We request the winner attend the 33rd Annual HAND Honors taking place in June 2024.**
- ◆ Runners-Up: Ten runners-up will each receive a \$30 gift card and a certificate of participation.

HOW ARE THE ESSAYS JUDGED?

Entries are judged on the author's ability to write an essay illustrating the "**Community Heroes**" contest theme. Specifically, the panel of judges will consider:

- ◆ Interpretation of the theme, "**Community Heroes.**"
- ◆ Originality – Written copy is the original creation of the student.
- ◆ Overall writing ability – Essay shows a degree of creativity and skill for its age group.

If you have questions regarding the contest, please contact Susan Ortiz at sortiz@handhousing.org

HAND Children's Essay Contest

"Community Heroes"

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE COMPLETE ALL FIELDS OF THIS FORM. INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
ATTACH COMPLETED FORM TO THE BACK OF EACH SUBMISSION.**

Student Name: _____

Student Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

Student Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____ Parent/Guardian E-mail: _____

Name of HAND Member Organization: _____

Name of HAND Member Property: _____

HAND Member Contact Person: _____

HAND Member Phone: _____ HAND Member E-mail: _____

Legal Notice:

As part of your submission of an essay associated with this contest, you acknowledge and declare that your essay submitted to HAND (Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers) is original, and that you as the writer hold exclusive copyright of your essay and hereby transfer exclusive copyright for this material to HAND for the use of the organization.

The following rights are waived by the undersigned:

- The right to make claim of ownership or suit against HAND, all or in part for the reproduction, use, or intent to generate revenue with the aforementioned essay.

The following rights are retained by HAND:

- Reproduction of said essay in future works of their own, such as marketing or public relations materials.
- HAND also retains the rights to include the essay on their website or in future publications.
- Electronic or print copies may be made for commercial and non-commercial use.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this form, please contact Susan Ortiz at sortiz@handhousing.org

Please acknowledge that you have read and understood the above notice:


