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**NEWS RELEASE**

**ANTI-DRUG/VIOLENCE 2013 CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that the 24th annual crime prevention poster contest calendars are being distributed free of charge at all County library locations and local police departments. The calendar showcases the winning twelve posters of those drawn by over 1,000 students from local public and private elementary schools submitted from throughout the County last spring.

County Attorney Backstrom stated that each year this contest allows students to make their own positive statements about preventing illegal drug, alcohol and tobacco use and violence prevention.

Messages about chemical abuse and violence prevention as well as statistical information are also featured on each page of the 2013 calendar, along with contact phone numbers for local resources in these areas.

Local sponsors contribute to the production of the calendar and the awards ceremony to unveil the annual winners each May. Approximately 15,000 calendars are made available to students and the public each year. This news release and photo are also available by clicking on News Release at [www.dakotacounty.us/attorney](http://www.dakotacounty.us/attorney).



**Back Row** (left to right): Anne Ganzer, Heritage Middle School; Hayley Miller, Diamond Path Elementary; McKenna Johnson, Echo Park Elementary

**Middle Row** (left to right): Rachel Parent, Diamond Path Elementary; Matthew Blechinger, Friendly Hills Middle; Kiersten Fairley, Lakeview Elementary; Allen Everson, Lakeview Elementary

**Front Row** (left to right): Aria Thomas, Diamond Path Elementary; Elizabeth Saxen, Echo Park Elementary; Morgan Rutter, Lakeview Elementary; Calli Fleming, Lakeview Elementary

**Also in photo:** Deputy Matt Schuster with Dog "Ace", Sheriff Dave Bellows and County Attorney James Backstrom **Not Pictured:** Marlo Jiles, Jr., Echo Park Elementary

**The following students were recognized as Honorable Mention recipients for their outstanding work at the May 17, 2012 award ceremony:**

Anetra Banks, Friendly Hills Middle; Abby Ackerman, Echo Park Elementary; Erin Clauson, Diamond Path Elementary; Bailey Donovan, Cherry View Elementary; Madison Fischer, Diamond Path Elementary; Lauren Krueger, Lakeview Elementary; Rahma Mohamed, Echo Park Elementary; Kathryn Murphy, Echo Park Elementary; Kate Olson, Echo Park Elementary; Hailey Sickler, Diamond Path Elementary; Paris Wacker, Lakeview Elementary

This annual crime prevention project would not be possible without the major contributions of Thomson Reuters (formerly Thomson West/West Publishing), which does the layout and printing of the calendar each year and Security Bindery, Inc., which binds the calendars annually, as well as the many other contributors, including:

**MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS**

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West St. Paul Commercial Club  
Wiederholt's Supper Club, Hastings  
WOW (Widows & Widowers), Lake Elmo

If you would like more information regarding the Anti-Drug/Violence Prevention Poster Contest, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.

News release and photo are available on-line at [www.dakotacounty.us/attorney](http://www.dakotacounty.us/attorney)