



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ICS 4th grader from Liberia wins United Nations Poster Contest

DECATUR, GA, JUNE 16, 2009 – Genevieve Wilson, a child survivor of war from Liberia and current 4th grade student at the International Community School in Decatur, Georgia, has won first prize in the “Real People, Real Needs” poster competition sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees. Genevieve will be in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, June 18th, to receive the award.

Born in Liberia in 1999, Genevieve was forced to flee with her family to a refugee camp in the Ivory Coast, where she lived for several years. She was resettled in Clarkston, Georgia, in 2003, and immediately enrolled at ICS.

Since that time, she has become a vocal leader for justice at the school, an active soccer player, and an accomplished artist. She hopes to be a fashion designer when she grows up.

“We are so proud of Genevieve – her poster embodies the spirit of ICS as a school that rebuilds families and communities from the ashes of broken nations and broken neighborhoods,” Laurent Dittmann, principal of the International Community School, said.

The International Community School is a K-6 charter and IB World school, serving refugee, immigrant and local children and their communities in DeKalb County, Georgia. DeKalb County is one of the largest refugee resettlement areas in the U.S., making it one of the most diverse counties in the country. ICS brings together children from over 20 nations in a nurturing and challenging academic environment. The school has been featured in a front page article in the New York Times, and is currently the subject of a year long series in the Christian Science Monitor.

The contest, initiated by UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie, received submissions from around the country. Students were asked to illustrate the struggles that refugees around the world face. Three first prize winners were selected in each of four age groups. The winners will travel to Washington, D.C. on June 18th to accept their awards from the High Commissioner for refugees and Ms. Jolie. Their posters will also be displayed in the National Geographic Museum on World Refugee Day.

Genevieve’s poster is a powerful work of art, representing the endurance, courage, and dreams of refugee newcomers in America.



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