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I AM ABLE™ ART AWARDS HONOR STUDENT ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES IN LARIMER AND WELD COUNTIES

April 7, 2008 Fort Collins, Colorado -- **The Able Kids Foundation** is proud to sponsor the Second Annual Colorado art contest for student artists with disabilities. This annual recognition will be given to creative student artists who represent the true spirit of **"I AM ABLE."**



"We believe the I AM ABLE Art Extravaganza! is a wonderful opportunity to showcase student artists' abilities. Student creativity and their inspirational work truly personify "I AM ABLE," stated Able Kids Foundation CEO and Co-Founder, Dr. Joan Burleigh.

Art can be submitted to the Foundation until noon on Thursday, April 10, 2008. Winning art will be announced at the art show and reception at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at the Square Shopping Center (east entry) at 3500 South College Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado. Artist submission forms can be picked up at the Foundation or contact us for emailing of the forms.

A participating ribbon and medal will be awarded to each artist. First, second, and third place recognition medals and cash awards will be given to the artist in all categories. The entries in each area will be judged on expression of ideas, originality and creativity. Judges for the event are Ann Wilmsen-a Colorado professional artist, Anita Chacon-a nationally recognized artist, and a representative of the staff at the Able Kids Foundation.

"The expression of art is often based upon life experiences or from a unique way of looking at the world. This insight visualized by students with disabilities can open a new window of artistic expression and this simply must be recognized," stated Jo Waldron, president and co-founder of the Able Kids Foundation.

Current sponsors and donors are The Griffin Foundation, Woodward Governor, High Country Beverage, RC Special Events, and Linda Hopkins-The Group.

The **Able Kids Foundation** is a non-profit organization that is a research-based, solutions-oriented non-profit that partners with local, national, and international organizations, eliminating barriers and expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The **"I AM ABLE" Initiative** was established to provide opportunities to enhance and maximize abilities of children and adults with challenges. This Initiative strives to create life-changing events through programs which target education, outreach, evaluation, diagnosis, management and assistive technologies.

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