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**LOCAL WINNER OF POSTER COMPETITION CELEBRATING
NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY IS ANNOUNCED**

Houston....(May 25, 2006). The Texas Center for the Missing, formerly known as Gabriel's Gifts, headquartered in Houston is pleased to announce the local winner of the National Missing Child's Day Poster Contest: Jazmin De La Trinidad of Williams Elementary in Pasadena, Texas. Jazmin's poster design was submitted to the national competition in Washington, D.C. where the national winner will be announced today at the U.S. Department of Justice.

May 25th is National Missing Children's Day. It is fitting that May 25th is also the day that the national artist is awarded along with his or her parents and a teacher. As the nation honors two children who represent missing children everywhere, Amber Hagerman and Etan Patz, it is also a time to celebrate the safe homecomings of children everywhere.

January 13th was the 10th anniversary of Amber Alerts with over 264 children brought home safely. Therefore, January was chosen to continue conversations with students about their safety. Throughout the month, students participated in an art competition which focused on *Bringing Our Children Home*.

The United States Department of Justice through their Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Child Protection Division sponsors a yearly contest for 5th-grade students to develop the artwork that will represent America's united goal for our missing children: to bring them home safely. The Texas Center for the Missing is a sponsoring Greater Houston Area organization coordinating our local competition. To have your school participate in next year's competition, contact Melissa Hulin, Associate Director, Texas Center for the Missing, at 713-314-3673 or mhulin@mrchouston.com.

About:

AMBER Alerts and Amber Hagerman: *The AMBER Alert System began in 1996 when Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters teamed with local police to develop an early warning system to help find abducted children. The Amber Alert was created as a legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas, and then brutally murdered. Other states and communities soon set up their own Amber plans as the idea was adopted across the nation.*

National Missing Children's Day and Etan Patz: *On May 25, 1979, 6-year-old Etan Patz grabbed his school books and gave his mother a goodbye kiss before leaving to catch the bus to school. Etan's mother was never to see him again. In the months and years that followed, Etan became the symbol for lost children all over America. Then, in 1982, President Reagan proclaimed May 25, the anniversary of Etan's disappearance, as National Missing Children's Day.*

The Texas Center for the Missing *is a 501(c)(3), missing persons organization (formerly known as Gabriel's Gifts) formed in March of 2000 after the disappearance of 17-year-old Gabriel Lester who was reported missing from his private high school in Austin. Gabriel's mother, a local, Houston-area business woman, decided after the four-month disappearance and tragic loss of her son to turn her tragedy into a positive effort to have an impact on missing children and their families in the Greater Houston Area. The Texas Center for the Missing is a member of AMECO, Inc., an international coalition of missing children's organizations.*

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Bringing our Missing



Help us gather a family
back together.

"Without a member of a
family, the family is incomplete!"

Children Home