



MEDIA RELEASE

June 7, 2021

Local Montreal student wins \$30,000 grant for Habitat for Humanity Quebec!

2021 saw record number of submissions to Habitat for Humanity Canada Meaning of Home writing contest

June 7, 2021, Toronto, ON - In a year when our homes played venue to online classrooms, boardrooms, milestones and mundane moments alike, Habitat for Humanity Canada was interested in hearing the answer to the question, what does home mean to you? Over 12,000 kids answered the call, making the 2021 annual Meaning of Home writing contest a record year in terms of number of submissions received from students in grades 4, 5 and 6 sharing a poem or short essay about what home means to them. This year's Meaning of Home contest also raised a record of \$300,000 for local Habitat for Humanity organizations home building across Canada and a total of \$31,770 for Habitat for Humanity Quebec.

Every year, there are three grand prize winners, one from each grade, who win a \$30,000 grant for their local Habitat for Humanity build, and Jake T. from Montreal, Quebec is the grade 5 grand prize winner this year. His \$30,000 grant will be going to Habitat for Humanity Quebec. [Click here](#) to read Jake T. winning entry, A small word of big meaning

In addition to the grand prize winners, there are nine runners up who win a \$10,000 grant for their local Habitat. Every student entry also earns a \$10 donation for their local Habitat. These much-needed funds will go towards building homes for families in need of a safe and secure place to call home.

To read all the winning entries, please visit: meaningofhome.ca/winners-2021.

Shirlane Day, executive Director of Habitat for humanity Quebec said that through this competition, young people are highlighting the importance of having a healthy and pleasant place where they can feel safe and grow'. As Jake T., recent winner of the contest said so eloquently " My home is a sanctuary and I'm safe there" We are sincerely hoping this grant will help more young people feel the same way than Jake.

The Meaning of Home contest would not be possible without the generous support of founding sponsor, [Sagen](#)TM (formerly known as Genworth Canada) and award sponsors [Revera](#) and [Swiffer](#). Thanks to their investments, students have an opportunity to give back to their communities in an engaging and meaningful way.

"During a time where we've all been spending so much time at home, it's never been more relevant to engage kids on issues like affordable housing through our annual Meaning of Home contest," said Stuart Levings, President and CEO of Sagen. "Once again, I'm amazed by the talent and commitment of students who've submitted their stories and I'm overwhelmed by the record-breaking number of submissions and funds raised. It's never been more important to have kids involved and creating positive change in their communities."

Grand Prize Winners:

Annika K. from Winnipeg, Manitoba, is the Grade 4 grand prize winner. Her \$30,000 grant will be going to Habitat for Humanity Manitoba. [Click here](#) to read Annika's winning entry, "What is Home."

Jake T. is the Grade 5 grand prize winner, from Montreal, Quebec. His \$30,000 grant will go to Habitat for Humanity Quebec. [Click here](#) to see the illustrated book of Jake's winning entry, "Home: a small word with big meaning."

Kara T. is the Grade 6 grand prize winner, from Orangeville, Ontario. Her \$30,000 grant will help Habitat for Humanity Halton-Mississauga-Dufferin build homes. [Click here](#) to read Kara's winning entry, "What home means to me".

Runners up Grade 4:

Alexandra R.	Habitat Vancouver Island North
Isla V.	Habitat Victoria
Mya W.	Habitat Halton-Mississauga-Dufferin

Runners up Grade 5:

Morgan J.	Habitat Greater Ottawa
Emma M.	Habitat Peterborough & Kawartha Region
Ella C-W.	Habitat Greater Ottawa

Runners up Grade 6:

Lacey C.	Habitat Newfoundland & Labrador
Castin B.	Habitat Ontario Gateway North
Olivia G.	Habitat Peterborough & Kawartha Region

Habitat for Humanity Quebec's model of affordable housing helps families in need of housing buy their own home. Habitat homeowners volunteer up to 500 hours and pay an affordable mortgage geared to their income, helping them build a strong foundation and the financial stability to help plan for their children's futures.

Teachers or parents who are interested in having their Grade 4, 5 or 6 students participate can access an educational module online at meaningofhome.ca that includes writing tips and information on affordable housing issues in Canada. Submission for the 2022 Meaning of Home contest will be welcome in January 2022.

About Habitat for Humanity Quebec

Habitat for Humanity Quebec responds to the urgent need to help families in Quebec with modest incomes who

live in precarious housing conditions, both in terms of their health and the security of their homes.

About Sagen™ (formerly Genworth Canada)

As a sponsor since 2000, Sagen has donated over \$5 million in support of Habitat Canada and has helped thousands of Canadian families realize their dreams of affordable homeownership. While Sagen's financial support provides crucial funding for their homeownership program, its support of Habitat Canada extends far beyond financial support. Throughout the sponsorship, Sagen employees from all levels of the organization, including President and CEO Stuart Levings and his executive team, have lent their leadership experience, industry knowledge and time to help launch many of Habitats' signature programs, including the Sagen Homebuilding Grants, Global Village Volunteer Program in Canada and the Meaning of Home Contest. These programs, along with Sagen's support and involvement in them has significantly increased their ability to raise funds, recruit volunteers and ultimately, support more families and build stronger communities. Find out more at www.sagen.ca

For more information:

Josée Gascon
Senior manager
Development, Communications, Marketing
Habitat for Humanity Quebec
jgascon@habitatqc.ca
C: 514-467-6971