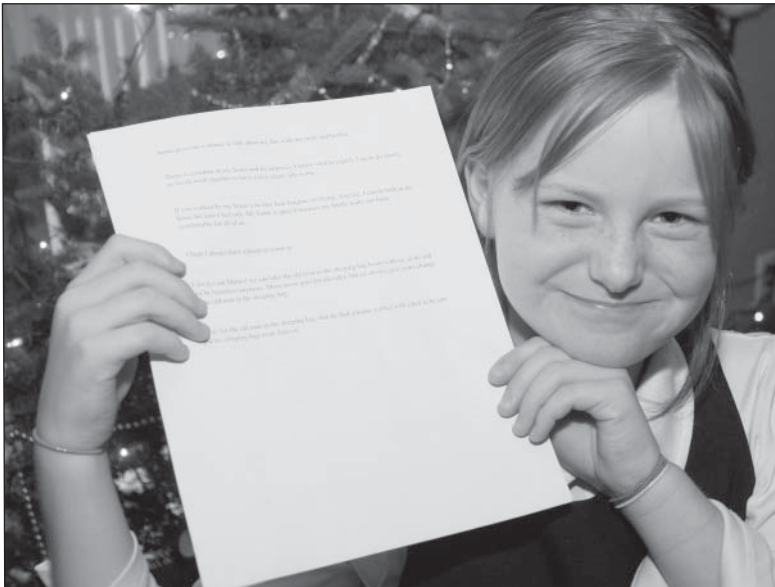


# Student Writing Contest Aids the Homeless

Anita DiPaolo Booth



2007 Winner Sarah Murray



**H**aving a safe home, a warm bed and enough to eat is a basic standard which most Canadian children enjoy. There are, however, an estimated 300,000 homeless people in Canada and many more that struggle to make ends meet. Two organizations, Genworth Financial Canada ([www.genworth.ca/contest/media.html](http://www.genworth.ca/contest/media.html)) and Habitat for Humanity Canada ([www.habitat.ca](http://www.habitat.ca)) have formed a partnership to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting homeownership as a means to break the cycle of poverty.

The two organizations have involved Canadian children in their efforts by sponsoring a “Meaning of Home” writing contest for grade four, five and six students. From October 6 to November 14, 2008, students can submit a 200–600 word poem or composition that explains what “home” means to them. The winner gets to help choose the location of a home built by Habitat volunteers and partially paid for by Genworth Financial Canada as well as receiving a new computer. The five runners-up receive \$100 gift certificates from Chapters Indigo and Genworth donates \$5,000 in each winner’s name, to help build a new home for a needy family.

Introduced in the context of homelessness and poverty, the “Meaning of Home” writing contest can provide students with an opportunity to think about these big ideas and assist in community improvement. □

To find contest details, lesson plans and activity ideas for your library, go to: [www.meaningofhome.ca](http://www.meaningofhome.ca).



***The Library Networking Group (LNG) is the electronic Meeting Space for libraries and the information profession.***

The challenges raised by ever-changing ideas, fresh perspectives and marketplace developments are being met by us every day. The continuing need to develop techniques and skills that keep us abreast of change are leading us to new solutions that we need to talk about. The pressure to share our best practices and, more importantly, our developing thoughts have led to the creation of Library Networking Group online community.

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