



June 2011

The Foreign Service Youth Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 Essay Contest, sponsored by McGrath Real Estate. The annual contest challenges U.S. Foreign Service youth to answer a topic question in 1,000 words or fewer. This year the topic question challenged Foreign Service youth to, "As a Youth Ambassador choose one issue/problem you would focus on for improving the lives of youth in the current country you live in (the U.S. can apply too). What would your focus issue be and how would you convince others that this is an important issue to tackle and prioritize, given there are so many problems/issues that need attention?" Five winners received generous cash prizes made possible by McGrath Real Estate and will be honored at the Youth Awards Ceremony in the Benjamin Franklin Room in the Harry S. Truman Building in Washington, DC on July 15, 2011.

### **High School Category**

#### **Chungdhak Lhamo Sherpa**

First place and \$750 was awarded to 19-year-old Chungdhak Lhamo Sherpa for her essay "A Tibetan Youth Ambassador Comes to America," Chungdhak is the dependent of Daniel and Dolkar Garrett currently posted to Washington D.C. Chungdhak is an 11th grader at the Sandy Spring Friends School in Silver Springs. She spent most of her life growing up in a village in Tibet and feels blessed to have the opportunity to live in the U.S. Her hobbies include reading books, babysitting, and gardening,

#### **Castilleja Kuzis**

Second place and \$500 was awarded to 16-year-old Castilleja Kuzis for her essay "Education for Now, Jobs for the Future." Castilleja is the 16-year-old daughter of Richard Uberaba and Karen Kuzis currently posted to Colombo, Sri Lanka. She is an 11th grader at the Overseas School of Colombo. Her hobbies include sculpting and art. After graduating next year, she aims to travel the world and pursue a degree in arts or business.

## **Middle School Category**

### **Andriy Etcheverry**

First place and \$250 was awarded to 14-year-old Andriy Etcheverry for his essay "American Culture in Saint Petersburg." Andriy is the son of John and Natalia Etcheverry currently posted to St. Petersburg, Russia. He is an 8th grader at the Anglo-American School of St. Petersburg. Andriy plays violin and piano, and he enjoys fishing, baseball, soccer, and an occasional video game.

### **Anna Bailey**

Joint Second place and \$100 was awarded to 14-year-old Anna Bailey for her essay "Mushroom Orphans!" Anna is the daughter of Heath and Melinda Bailey currently posted to Riga, Latvia. She is an 8th grader at the International School of Latvia. Her favorite sport is soccer but in the past year, she has competed on her school's tennis, basketball, and volleyball teams. Her hobbies include hanging out with friends in Riga's "old town" or reading. She also enjoys traveling and knitting.

### **Olivia Mozdierz**

Joint Second place and \$100 was awarded to 11-year-old Olivia Mozdierz for her essay "Making My Community a Better Place by Providing Food and Housing for All." Olivia is daughter of William and Barbara Mozdierz currently posted to La Paz, Bolivia. She is a 6th grader at the American Cooperative School La Paz. She has been a regular volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Bolivia, working on construction projects to provide housing for needy families, and has participated in service projects with women's shelters and animal rescue. Born in Vienna, Austria, Olivia has also lived in Denmark, Poland, Washington, D.C., and Croatia. Her hobbies include soccer, gymnastics, and the saxophone.

Everyone associated with the Foreign Service Youth Foundation, McGrath Real Estate, the Family Liaison Office and the Department of State congratulates the 2011 Essay Contest winners. Together with the other entrants, they demonstrate the creativity, thoughtfulness, intelligence, and enthusiasm of U.S. Foreign Service youth.

The 2012 Essay Contest entries are due in April 2012. To receive more information about the contest and other exciting programs organized by the Foreign Service Youth Foundation, please send an email to [fsyf@fsyf.org](mailto:fsyf@fsyf.org).