



COUNTY OF ANOKA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Art Exhibit Raises Awareness of Homelessness

Artwork centering on the theme “Homelessness...the Journey” will be exhibited at sites throughout Anoka County in November, which has been designated Homelessness Awareness Month. Works by homeless individuals, students, and other artists will be on display at the government center in Anoka and all Anoka County Library branches.

The Anoka County Library earlier provided art supplies to area homeless shelters using funds from a Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant. Students from St. Francis High School created several large-scale sculptures that will be displayed in the lobby of the Anoka County Government Center in November.

Homelessness is a growing trend in Anoka County. From 2009 to 2011, the number of homeless people in Anoka County grew by 45 percent, with many of them being children and young adults. “Everyone deserves to have the opportunity to have a safe, permanent home,” said Anoka County Board Chair Rhonda Sivarajah, “It’s particularly disheartening to see the number of young people and veterans who are homeless.”

The “Homelessness...the Journey” exhibit is sponsored by Heading Home Anoka, a regional initiative to end homelessness. Heading Home Anoka is a subcommittee of the county’s Continuum of Care Committee, which is chaired by Commissioner Sivarajah.

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