

Rural students win poster contest

'Use your muscles to help elders'

A colorful drawing showing a cabin and an enormous woodpile will illustrate the Older Persons Action Group's 1987 Older Alaskans Month poster.

Nina Renee John, a fifth-grade student in Grayling, created the winning entry. Her artwork was titled: "Use your muscles to help elders with wood. Saw wood! Pack in wood! Chop wood!"

It shows a young person tackling the woodpile while an older woman looks on from inside the cabin.

The theme for this year's contest — how communities help their elders — seemed harder for children to understand and illustrate than previous contest themes, according to Nona McVickar, contest chair.

"Many of the posters this year came from rural areas," she said. "They seemed more successful at depicting the theme, perhaps because there are more grandparents in rural areas, and the children were better able to relate to helping their elders."

Second place went to Isaiah Williams of Chicken. His artwork, "Caring hearts warm the elderly," shows an old man walking with a cane while someone cuts his wood.

Third place was awarded to Charlene Tom of Chefnak. Her poster showed a girl and her grandmother with water buckets. It is titled: "I help to pack water."

In all, McVickar said 90 entries were received from 18 communities.

Nina will receive \$100 from the

Older Persons Action Group for her winning entry. The poster will be distributed to senior sites, libraries and schools throughout Alaska.

Isaiah received \$50 for placing second in the contest, while Charlene receives \$25 for her third-place entry.

Cited for honorable mention were drawings by eight other children, including Alice Aluskok, fifth grade, Napakiak; Moses Ayagulria Jr., fifth grade, Napakiak; Joyce Behrent, sixth grade, Emmonak; Brendon Burgess, sixth grade, North Pole; Darren George, sixth grade, Akiachak; Billie Jean Hootch, sixth grade, Emmonak; Kevin Magee, fifth grade, Grayling; and Dale Moses, sixth grade, Akiachak.