

# 12-year-old BRHA resident wins grand prize in a national poster contest

*Virginia Middle School student Kendon and her sister Braxton are among 13 winners from across the U.S.*

Two young Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority (BRHA) residents have been named winners in the 2021 National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) poster contest, entitled “What Home Means to Me.”

Kendon, 12, was named grand prize winner, while her sister, Braxton, 15, was named one of 12 additional winners. Kendon’s poster is featured on the cover of NAHRO’s 2022 What Home Means to Me calendar, while Braxton’s artwork will be featured as one of the months inside.

“I’m so excited to be the grand prize winner this year and can’t wait to enter again next year,” says Kendon, a seventh-grade student at Virginia Middle School who aspires to be a chef. “I’ve been drawing for about four years and enjoy drawing with my sister, who gives me perspective and ideas. I worked harder on this drawing than anything I’ve ever done. I drew the hand holding the world, with all the colors around the world representing all the countries and everyone united together. In those colors, I put a lot of words about how I feel about home and what it means to me, because I want the world to feel that same way. That was the inspiration for my poster.”

This year marks the second time that Braxton’s artwork has been selected for inclusion in a What Homes Means to Me calendar. She was also a national winner in the 2020 poster contest.

“We couldn’t be more proud of Kendon and Braxton, and are so pleased to extend our congratulations to them both,” says Lisa Porter, executive director/CEO of BRHA. “These two girls are not only very talented artists, but they are also incredibly adept at translating their feelings into beautiful art, something that inspires all of us who live and work in affordable housing communities. Their work is quite literally a vivid illustration of the importance of providing safe, cost-effective, sustainable housing.”

Since 2008, the annual poster contest has recognized the art of children in grades K-12 who live in affordable housing programs administered by NAHRO member authorities across the country. Historically, the grand prize winner receives a trip to NAHRO’s annual conference in Washington, D.C., to meet with NAHRO membership and Congressional representatives. Because of organizational concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kendon will visit D.C. at a later date.

Established in 1933, NAHRO is a membership organization of more than 19,500 housing and community development providers and professionals throughout the U.S. that create and manage affordable housing for low- and middle-income families — more than three million homes for more than eight million people.

## **About Us**

BRHA is the designated public housing agency in the city of Bristol, Virginia. Founded in 1938, it is the second-oldest such authority in Virginia, and houses 40 percent of low-income renter families in Bristol. BRHA provides safe, attractive and affordable housing and housing assistance for more than 600 families in the Bristol community, along with opportunities for families and individuals to achieve a higher standard of living. BRHA ([www.brha.com](http://www.brha.com)) is governed by a five-member board of commissioners that is appointed by the mayor of Bristol, Virginia. BRHA is a member of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials ([www.nahro.org](http://www.nahro.org)).