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Fifth grader wins *Cooperative Living* magazine's annual Youth Art Contest

Glen Allen, Va. – Hanlin Zhang, the 10-year-old daughter of Jing and Catherine Zhang of Vienna, has earned “Best in Show” honors in *Cooperative Living* magazine’s 2017 Youth Art Contest.

For the 15th-annual version of this contest, students in kindergarten through fifth grade were tasked with the challenge of portraying visual interpretations of the theme, “Animals.”

Hanlin, who is a rising fifth grader at Flint Hill Elementary in Vienna, used colored pencils to create her winning entry, which depicts a Dalmatian puppy curled up on a red-and-white-checked blanket.

“We received hundreds of colorful images with artistic illustrations of every kind of imaginable animal – from lions and exotic birds to puppies and bunny rabbits,” said *Cooperative Living* Editor Bill Sherrod. “But our judges knew they had ‘spotted’ a Best-in-Show winner when they saw Hanlin’s precisely penciled art contest submission.”

“I was very happy when I found out I won,” said Hanlin, who said she worked on her drawing for three weeks. Her mother added, “We don’t own a dog yet, but this has been Hanlin’s wish for years,” says her mother. In the meantime, Hanlin settles for petting all the neighborhood dogs.

More than 500 student artists entered the annual competition, which was judged by staff at the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives publisher of *Cooperative Living*. First place in each grade category received a \$25 cash prize, and Hanlin’s “Best in Show” work earned her a \$100 prize.

“We started the Youth Art Contest to encourage youthful creativity and give kids a chance to show their art to the magazine’s 1.25 million readers,” said Bill Sherrod, *Cooperative Living*’s editor. “Everyone who judged the entries was impressed with both the imagination and talent shown in the students’ work.”

The contest was announced in the February and March/April issues of *Cooperative Living* and entries were due May 1. The first-, second- and third-place entries for each grade are published in full color in the July issue of the magazine, which is available online at www.co-opliving.com.

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2017 Youth Art contest winners by grade are:

Kindergarten

- 1st – Arnav Dusad of Brambleton
- 2nd – Abigail Knauth of Woodbridge
- 3rd – Maliyah Famble of Tappahannock

First Grade

- 1st – Samika Karnam of Centreville
- 2nd – Emme Heale of Stuarts Draft
- 3rd – Viktoria Ignatieva of Fairfax

Second Grade

- 1st – Katelyn Knauth of Woodbridge
- 2nd – Ezra Toole of Stuarts Draft
- 3rd – Colton Blankenship of Mount Crawford

Third Grade

- 1st – Micaela Deza of Chantilly
- 2nd – Mariner Gleich of Lexington
- 3rd – Samhita Kotamraju of Ashburn

Fourth Grade

- 1st – Savanna Loy of Manassas
- 2nd – Kerrigan Mitcham of Newport
- 3rd – Kendall Gordon of Dinwiddie

Fifth Grade

- 1st – Emerson Lewis of Virginia Beach
- 2nd – Mihika Dusad of Brambleton
- 3rd – Sadie Alphin of Goshen

Best in Show

- 5th grader Hanlin Zhang of Vienna

Cooperative Living, the membership publication of Virginia's consumer-owned electric cooperatives, is published 10 times annually by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. The magazine is mailed to more than 510,000 homes, farms and businesses across Virginia. For more information, visit www.co-opliving.com.

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