

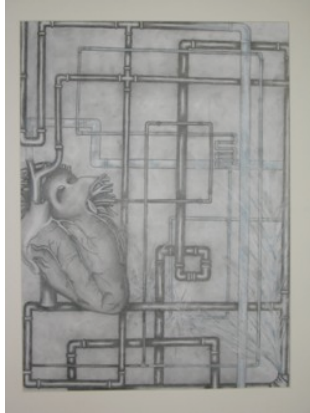
# Press Release

## For Immediate Release

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## Local Students Receives Water is Life Art Scholarship

Hannah Ehli and Rachel Lash, students in Kristin Gustafson's Trek North Charter High School art class, were chosen to receive \$500 scholarships on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Freshwater Society's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Water is Life Art Contest. Ehli and Lash, two of six scholarship recipients, were chosen from 32 finalists, who had emerged from a field of more than 250 artists from more than 80 schools across the state of Minnesota. Each art entry was accompanied by a statement about how the artists' work represented the value of water or the threats that water faces in today's world.



By: Hannah Ehli



By: Rachel Lash

The artists' explain their work in their artists' statements:

Excerpt from Hannah Ehli's artist statement: "As the main organ in the body, our hearts give us life by pumping blood to our organs much like our river systems pump water to various regions of the world. I used the pipes as veins carrying water/life to the places it's most needed. There is one damaged pipe that needs repair; this implies that there are places that desperately need the life that water can bring but they aren't getting it. I used the color blue to intensify the water to show the focus of the piece."

Excerpt from Rachel Lash's artist statement. "The boy represents all those who do not have ready access to this resource. The background of my artwork is a water theme collage of news articles. Some express a need to conserve it; others remind people how much water they need to drink. No matter what the message, they all reveal how entirely we depend on it."

The other five scholarship recipients are: Christine Hofschulte, Plainview-Elgin-Millville High School; Ally Ede, Mound Westonka High School; Shelby Heintz, Kasson Mantorville High School; and Brandon Cole, Stewartville High School.

2010 is the sixth year the Freshwater Society has offered this successful scholarship contest to Minnesota high school students. The contest is a collaborative effort with Minnesota Education Service Cooperatives to educate youth about the importance of protecting and safeguarding freshwater resources and acknowledge the creativity and talent of Minnesota's youth.

Hundreds of amazing art pieces representing water's beauty, importance, and degradation have been created by students across the state of Minnesota for this contest. Each year's winning art pieces are displayed at various events and locations throughout the state, including the Minnesota State Capitol, University of Minnesota, Pollution Control Agency and other locations and recognized in publications across the state. The art can be viewed at [www.freshwater.org](http://www.freshwater.org) or on Facebook at Water is Life art contest.

The Freshwater Society is a 42-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring people to conserve and protect water. A year-long initiative, *2010-The Year of Water*, offers education and opportunities for people of all ages to become better stewards of our most important resource. For information on the report and the Freshwater Society, please visit [www.freshwater.org](http://www.freshwater.org).