

BIRMINGHAM - Congressman and Mrs. Spencer Bachus announced that Shy'Ailah Rutledge, a fifth grade student at Erwin Elementary School, has been selected as the cover artist for the 2009 Holiday Card Call for Art.

The program provides a creative outlet for talented students with visual impairments.

All of the participants in this year's program were honored at a reception hosted by Congressman and Mrs. Bachus and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry Vision Science Research Center at the Homewood Public Library today.

"These students have captured the spirit of the Christmas season by sharing their talents with us. The originality and diversity of their artwork is truly inspiring. It is a privilege to be able to recognize these gifted and loving children," Bachus said.

The UAB School of Optometry Vision Science Research Center sponsors the Holiday Card Call for Art. In 1993, Congressman and Mrs. Bachus began using the original art in their holiday card to highlight the accomplishments of local students. The cards are received by more than 7,000 people.

Shy'Ailah, who is eleven years old, was selected as the winner of the contest for her artwork entitled "My Snowman," an acrylic on canvas. Her art teacher at Erwin Elementary School is Amanda McDonald. The principal at the school is Mike Barlow.

The student artwork is on display throughout the holiday season in the lobby of the Worrell Building on 924 18th Street in Birmingham.

The following students were recognized for their artwork:

Robin Adair, Gardendale Elementary School

Destiny Cobbs, Brookville Elementary School

Taylor Cosby, Hewitt Trussville Middle School

Katie Crook, Rocky Ridge Elementary School

Taylor Davis, Bagley Junior High School

Gracie Faulkner, Corner School

Dana Folds, Clay Chalkville High School

Charne Ariel Ford, YWCA of Central Alabama

Reagan Green, Deer Valley Elementary School

Ansley Hendrix, Greystone Elementary School

Rachel Hyche, Oak Mountain Elementary School

Austin Kennedy, Hewitt Trussville Middle School

Matthew Miller, Hewitt Trussville Middle School

Bailey Olmstead, Gardendale Elementary School

Donavan Perman, Lewis Elementary School

Beck Peterson, Paine Primary School

Nicholas Rollins, Irondale Middle School

Leon Rosato, Simmons Middle School

Shy'Alia Rutledge, Erwin Elementary School

Dylan Sebastian, Chalkville Elementary School

Katherine Singletary, Mortimer Jordan High School

Timothy Tankersley, Hewitt Trussville Middle School

Jamiel Vaughn, W.J. Christian School

Liam White, West Blocton Elementary School

Aubrey Whiteley, Crumly Chapel Elementary School

Kayla Wilson, Rocky Ridge Elementary School

Stephanie Wright, Crumly Chapel Elementary School

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