



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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### **KANSAS STUDENT WINS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST**

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, declared Heidy Jimena Perez Veleta from Sunnyside Elementary School in Dodge City, Kansas, winner of the 2021 National Missing Children's Day poster contest. The announcement is part of the 38th annual commemoration of National Missing Children's Day.

OJJDP invites fifth graders each year to create an original poster illustrating the theme, "Bringing Our Missing Children Home Safely." The contest creates an opportunity for schools, law enforcement and child advocates to discuss the issue of child safety with youth and their parents.

"It is truly remarkable that someone so young could be capable of capturing, in a single image, the range of emotion encompassed by the disappearance of a child," said Amy Solomon, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs. "With talent and insight beyond her years, Heidy has distilled the essence of Missing Children's Day into a brilliantly conceived and beautifully executed work of art."

Heidy's poster is a colorful representation of two hands forming a heart. In the middle of the heart sits a small child, huddled head down with her hands around her knees. Heidy explained that the heart symbolizes love and hope for families and parents as they search for their missing children.

"The artwork Heidy created is a heartfelt depiction of the love, and sadness, families feel when their child goes missing," said OJJDP Acting Administrator Chyrl Jones. "We congratulate Heidy and all the contest participants for continuing the conversation of child safety in communities across the county."

The Department also honored a sergeant and four detectives from Fresno, California, a sergeant from Addison, Illinois, a United States Postal Service employee from Columbia, Maryland, and two coordinators from the Department of the Attorney General's Missing Child Center-Hawaii for their efforts to find and rescue missing children.

Every year on May 25, the Office of Justice Programs and its Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention lead the nation in observing National Missing Children's Day, first proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1983. This day shines a spotlight on child safety and honors the professionals dedicated to protecting children around the country.

In lieu of an in-person ceremony, OJJDP is launching a [website](#) today featuring information about the awardees and statements from Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, OJP Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Solomon, OJJDP Acting Administrator Jones and President and CEO of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children John F. Clark.

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The Office of Justice Programs provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance and other resources to improve the nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, advance racial equity in the administration of justice, assist victims and enhance the rule of law. More information about OJP and its components can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).

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