

Press release

**A Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac student wins 5 000\$ in a National writing contest on  
“The Meaning of Home”**

**Deux-Montagnes, April 3rd 2012** - Jacob Frigault, a Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac fifth grade student was chosen as a runner-up for his entry in the National writing contest sponsored by Genworth Canada, one of Habitat for Humanity Canada's main partners. His essay won him an iPod, a pizza party for his whole class at school and a 5 000\$ check to be given to the Habitat for Humanity affiliate of his choice. Jacob chose to donate the money to Habitat pour l'humanité région des Deux-Montagnes.

“We are very happy that Jacob has chosen our affiliate as a recipient of the 5 000\$ check that he won thanks to his touching essay on The Meaning of Home. Not only will this check help us build our second Habitat home but this contest helps provide a positive experience ultimately creating a generation of more engaged and compassionate citizens” confided Mr. Denis Pilon, Président of Habitat pour l'humanité région des Deux-Montagnes.

Genworth Canada sponsored the Meaning of Home writing contest in 2007 to sensitize young Canadians to the importance of having a safe and secure home and to encourage them to give back to the community by putting pencil to paper. Since then, Genworth Canada has donated more than 450 000\$ to more than 30 Habitat for Humanity affiliates across Canada.

The winning essay and those of the runner-ups were selected from amongst 24 semi-finalists. To celebrate the fifth anniversary of The Meaning of Home contest, Genworth Canada and Habitat for Humanity will publish a commemorative book with the finalist essays from the past five years. All proceeds from the book sales will be donated to Habitat for Humanity Canada affiliates.

To read this year's winning essays, to order the commemorative book or for more information on how you can participate in the contest next year, please go to: [http://www.genworth.ca/contest/winners\\_2011.html](http://www.genworth.ca/contest/winners_2011.html)

Habitat pour l'humanité région des Deux-Montagnes' mission is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting home ownership as a means of breaking the cycle of poverty. Habitat's goal is to eliminate sub-standard housing from the face of the earth, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. In 2009, with the help of a large number of volunteers, Habitat RDM built a safe, secure and affordable home for a Deux-Montagnes family.

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**Source et information :** Habitat pour l'Humanité – Région des Deux-Montagnes  
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**Jacob, Grade 5**  
**Ste-Marthe sur le Lac, Quebec**

On the list of words that make us feel calm  
The word that comes first is obviously MOM.  
Then HOUSE would be the next word we think of  
Along with the words SAFETY, PEACE and LOVE.

Those words all come together in an ideal country  
But where I come from, which is called Haiti,  
Poverty and natural disasters  
Often stifle these comforting words.

So in an orphanage my life began  
With walls and a roof as its only plan.

It looked like a HOUSE  
But it was not a HOME.

I did not have a nicely decorated room  
And even my bed, I had to share.  
I did not have beautiful clothing  
And no PARENT over me was watching.

Then, there came a day  
When from Canada a lady  
Came to carry me away  
And on a plane, she took me.

I then received the most beautiful present:  
A family, so much LOVE and of course, so pleasant,  
A home where I feel SECURE,  
Where I can grow, laugh, and dream, for sure