

Stacy Plummer was awarded the 2008 CCHD Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest Grand Prize at the *National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM)* in December 2008. As part of the awards presentation, she answered the following questions.

**1. What inspired your piece of art? What message are you trying to communicate?**

What inspired this piece of art is the knowledge that poverty is a serious issue that is not to be taken lightly. Feeding the poor is just a small step and there is a long path ahead of us. We need to work with our politicians and our leaders and have them help us make the drastic changes necessary. People should not be living in poverty at all. These people need more than just a meal. They deserve more. They deserve a place to call home, a decent education for themselves and their children; they deserve healthcare and not having to work three jobs to barely make it. These people are not only supporting themselves. They are supporting their families. You cannot support a family on minimum wage! The overall message I'm trying to convey is it's not only about feeding the poor, that's just the beginning; it's about working together and creating a world where this doesn't have to be an issue anymore.

**2. What CCHD funded group did you choose as the recipient of the grant? How are they responding to poverty in the U.S.? Why are you impressed by the work they are doing?**

I chose the Albany Community Land Trust Organization, which is a CCHD funded organization that obtains houses in our community and offers it to lower-income families to help them get a better start. They make housing affordable by receiving donations from various banks and other organizations around the community. They make sure the houses go to a good person who will be able to afford and maintain it and maybe pass it on to someone else. I found it amazing that the people who run the ACLT are all people who live in the city of Albany, and this program has helped most of them buy their homes. About one third of the board who run this program are people who have bought a home through the ACLT. It truly is run and maintained by the community and I feel that is what makes it so special. I was impressed by the work they are doing because I think it is incredibly selfless and I am so very glad to know that there is an organization so close to my home that is playing such a role in our community. I am pleased to know that my donation will hopefully be helping someone in need find a place to call their home.

**3. How does your faith play a role in your life? Did it inspire your artwork in any way?**

Faith has always played a role in my life, from going to Sunday school back in the second grade to graduating from a Catholic School. I feel like I have learned from the very beginning about morals and the difference from right and wrong. It was just how I was raised. My parents always taught me about my faith and about doing unto others. I feel like that is why this subject is so important. To know right from wrong and to help our brothers and teach those that don't know. I do believe faith inspired my artwork because it is more of an emotional piece rather than a factual. It strikes an emotion that I don't feel I could have gotten across without fully understanding the role we Catholics play in dispelling poverty.