



## While Under Two Roofs

All under two roofs  
My parents have always celebrated me through my smallest achievements and my greatest accomplishments



## My First Best Friend

I feel ecstatic in her presence, though I also feel dramatic in her absence  
Whenever we bond, my happiness goes beyond



# 2024

ChildSupport.  
It's more than just money.

# About The Teen Media Contest

The theme of the New Jersey Office of Child Support Services' 2023 contest encouraged students to illustrate – through art or the written word – *How do your parents or loved ones make everyday things special? What do they do to celebrate these small milestones and achievements?*

This annual contest is open to all middle school and high school age students in New Jersey.

For more information about the contest and to sign up for contest updates visit [www.NJTeenMedia.org](http://www.NJTeenMedia.org).

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

# Congratulations to our 2023 winners

## Hand-Drawn/Hand-Painted Art

### High School

1st Place: Gabriella Freeman, Piscataway High School  
2nd Place: Sophie Drechsler, Academy of Allied Health and Science  
3rd Place: Katherine Gomez, Frank J Cicarell Academy  
Honorable Mentions: Jesus Calderon, Boonton High School and Sofia Rojas, Piscataway High School

### Middle School

1st Place: Sadie Bober, Memorial Middle School  
2nd Place: Liam Wong, Academy 1 Middle School  
3rd Place: Yuna Lee, Benjamin Franklin Middle School  
Honorable Mentions: Nisha Evangelista, St. Leo's School and Isabella Evaristo, Salome Urena Elementary School

## Written Word

### High School

1st Place: Chloe Care, Ocean City High School  
2nd Place: Brooke Liebrand, Ocean City High School  
3rd Place: Abigail Hays, Ocean City High School  
Honorable Mentions: Yesmean bint Moslem, Pillars Preparatory Academy, Amalthea Hughes, Lawrence High School and Jake Tracy, Ocean City High School

### Middle School

1st Place: Ruqaiyah Hagigal, Pillars Preparatory Academy  
2nd Place: Avery Dravis, Memorial Middle School  
3rd Place: Eila Moran, Bernardsville Middle School  
Honorable Mentions: Raihanna Qazi, Pillars Preparatory Academy and Orchid Ryals, Explore Middle School

See the showcase online at [www.NJTeenMedia.org](http://www.NJTeenMedia.org).

ChildSupport.  
It's more than just money.





**Gabriella Freeman**

“Game Night”

1st Place Hand-Drawn Art, High School



# january

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## December 2023

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/ 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

## February 2024

					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29			

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
1-877-NJKIDS1

# While Under Two Roofs

All under two roofs

My parents have always celebrated me through my smallest achievements and my greatest accomplishments

All under two roofs

My parents display their excitement for my daily fulfillments and congratulate my hard work, even if it can mean nothing to someone else

All under two roofs

My parents express their affection through cooking my favorite dinner, or baking me my favorite cookies

All under two roofs

My parents communicate their terms of endearment through thoughtful texts or placing hand written notes in my lunch

All under two roofs

My parents exclaim their words of encouragement to show they believe in me each day

While we may not live under the same roof, each parent has given me a foundation of love; for the heart of a home is not always within four walls and a roof, it goes where you go.



**Chloe Care**

“While Under Two Roofs”  
1st Place Written, High School



# february

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

### January 2024

1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### March 2024

						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24 <sup>24</sup> / <sub>31</sub>	25	26	27	28	29	30	

**ChildSupport.**  
 It's more than just money.  
[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
 1-877-NJKIDS1

# My Mother.

My mother is a woman  
like no other. She  
gave me life,  
nurtured me,  
taught me,  
dressed me,  
fought for me, held me,  
shouted at me, kissed me, but most  
importantly she loved me unconditionally.  
There are not enough words to  
describe just how important mama  
is to me and what a powerful  
influence she continues to be.

I love you.



**Sophie Drechsler**

"Mama"

2nd Place Hand-Drawn Art, High School





# march

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Time Begins Ramadan Begins						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Saint Patrick's Day		First Day of Spring				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Easter Sunday 31					Good Friday	

## February 2024

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29				

## April 2024

				1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30						

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
1-877-NJKIDS1

# Parenting

Somewhere between the beginning and now,  
It went from "Thanks for embarrassing me on my birthday mom"  
To "Thank you for making my day special"

Somewhere between the beginning and now,  
It went from "Dad, you can't come shopping, it's a girls thing"  
To "Thank you for being so involved dad"

Somewhere between the beginning and now,  
It went from "Mom, it's not a big deal, I always get good grades"  
To "Thank you for always celebrating my hard work"

They made sure I had candles to blow out on my birthday,  
Even on days it felt I didn't deserve to be celebrated.  
They worked relentlessly  
To give me the praise I didn't know needed.

From temper tantrums to teenage fights,  
They hug me when I feel small,  
Yet cheer the loudest when I stand tall.

Somewhere between the beginning and now,  
I realized the other half of my heart belonged to the people  
who nurtured it in the first place.



**Brooke Liebrand**

"Parenting"

2nd Place Written, High School



# april

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	1 April Fools' Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Earth Day Passover Begins	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## March 2024

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/ 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

## May 2024

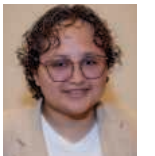
				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
1-877-NJKIDS1



**Katherine Gomez**  
"Cooked with Love"  
3rd Place Hand-Drawn Art, High School



# may

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
			1	2	3	4
5  Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9	10	11
12  Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27  Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

April 2024

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

June 2024

							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29	

**ChildSupport.**  
 It's more than just money.  
[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
 1-877-NJKIDS1

# Dude, I'm so Proud of You

"Dude, I'm so proud of you."  
The words I strive to hear.  
Every practice, every test,  
Competing in the biggest meet of the year,  
Those words sit in the back of my mind.

A seemingly insignificant gesture,  
With the most approving smile.  
I could get an A on a quiz,  
Or swim 32 miles.  
Those words are better than any trophy in my hands.

If you take away my ribbons  
And leave me with no medals,  
To keep my going every day,  
That phrase is still the only thing that's essential  
Because dude, they're so proud of me.

**Abigail Hays**

"Dude, I'm So Proud of You"  
3rd Place Written, High School



# june

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Flag Day	22
Father's Day			Juneteenth	First Day of Summer		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## May 2024

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## July 2024

			1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
28	29	30	31					

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
1-877-NJKIDS1





# july

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## June 2024

							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23/ 30	24	25	26	27	28	29	

## August 2024

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
1-877-NJKIDS1

# My First Best Friend

I feel ecstatic in her presence, though I also feel dramatic in her absence  
Whenever we bond, my happiness goes beyond  
When she smiles at me, my face lights up in glee  
Though, whenever I have a bad day, she detects my smile that fades away  
My mom is honestly my best friend, our bond can never end  
Whenever I feel lonely, she's the only one to comfort me  
When I accomplish something big, she takes me out to ice cream  
Whenever I lose my soccer game, she still makes me feel like a winner  
I love whenever I achieve something, if it's big or small, she makes me feel like a victor  
In my eyes, she's my number one best friend, she's my home, my warmth  
Whenever I'm frustrated, she always finds a way to put a smile on my face  
I love when I talk about school, she's always invested in the conversation  
Every year she makes my birthday feel special, even if the birthday was big or small  
I love how we can rely on each other  
I'm never going to forget how much you've done for me  
I love how even though she had a long day at work, she still tries to help me with my homework  
I appreciate that even though it's cold outside she's still there for me during my soccer game  
In other eyes, she's my mother  
Though, in my eyes she's my first best friend



**Ruqaiyah Hagigal**

“My First Best Friend”

1st Place Written, Middle School



# august

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## July 2024

---

1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## September 2024

---

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
1-877-NJKIDS1



**Liam Wong**  
"Capturing Moments"  
2nd Place Hand-Drawn Art, Middle School



# september

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8 National Grandparent's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 First Day of Fall	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## August 2024

			1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

## October 2024

			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
1-877-NJKIDS1

# The Power of Family

There are things that I will never forget,  
No matter how old I grow,  
No matter the moments of sorrow I may show,  
Sitting, at the table with conversations that produce laughs,  
Running, to the ice cream truck while stomping through the grass,  
The fun that we had once long ago,  
It turns into rememberings that stay and will never let go.

The nights of all the late kitchen table talks  
Suddenly turn into unforgettable memories that won't ever make me feel awkward  
Dazing into the warm-hearted spirit of each conversation  
Sending my head into a whirl of loving representation  
Never forgetting  
Never Ever

Each day there are special thoughts  
And important things that are taught  
Like how to choose the right path  
And always remember to make others laugh  
Make sure to say good night before bed  
And try to be the one who has led  
The actions being said will always lead you to equitable decisions.

Making special those songs in the car  
And those dark summer nights when we look up to the stars  
Fires and smores while out in the back  
Trips to the Keys and eating Moose Tracks  
Playing board games on the long rainy nights  
Sitting on the steps to settle our fights  
Each different memory includes a piece  
A piece of my heart that I will cherish for long

Some of these moments change with the seasons  
They're special to me for a variety of reasons  
Summer days on the boat with the wind in my hair  
Winter sleds on the hill without a care  
Autumn breezes that blow leaves in my face  
Planting Spring flowers all over the place  
As a family, we share moments throughout the seasons  
Creating stories to share when the time comes

Music gliding through our cars  
Concerts, Radio, and Karaoke appear  
The stories told through each lyric and note  
Gives us breaths and peace from the person that wrote  
Songs make us happy and fill us with glee  
Oh how we love each memory  
These artists share stories with the whole world  
Bringing positive moments to all

The power and magnificence of families coming all together  
Sharing the magnificence of one another  
During sad days  
Mad days  
Rad Days  
The support is immense and incredible  
All these memories and times could never be replaced.

**Avery Dravis**

“The Power of Family”  
2nd Place Written, Middle School



# october

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
		1	2 Rosh Hashanah Begins	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Yom Kippur Begins	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

## September 2024

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## November 2024

						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
1-877-NJKIDS1



**Yuna Lee**  
"4 feet and 5 inches"  
3rd Place Hand-Drawn Art, Middle School





# november

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
					1	2
3  Daylight Saving Time Ends	4	5  Election Day	6	7	8	9
10	11  Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28  Thanksgiving	29	30

### October 2024

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### December 2024

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**ChildSupport.**  
 It's more than just money.  
[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
 1-877-NJKIDS1

# How Even the Smallest Things Can Make a Huge Difference

What are some things that parents and loved ones do everyday to make life special for you? Parents and loved ones can make everyday special in many ways. I can't even count how many things my family does to make everyday special, but one way my parents and loved ones make every day special is by just being there for me when I need them. Another way is encouraging me and helping me to be the best me that I can be.

My family is always there for me when I need them even if I'm upset about something small, like messing up in a lacrosse or field hockey game. If I am upset, they make me feel better; for example, when I didn't play great in a field hockey game or I felt like no one would pass to me at lacrosse, they would make me feel better. When my cat passed away, I was really upset because he used to come up to my room and lie on my pillow while I read and he would nudge the corner of my book so that I would pet him, and it was really nice; they made me feel better even though I was really upset. Thanks to my family we started looking at pictures of Eero and laughed when we found a picture of him sticking his tongue out in the photo. So even if it's something small, my family is always there for me no matter what, and even just knowing that they are there for me makes me feel better.

My family helps me in many aspects of school, but they also help and encourage me to be the best me that I can be. They encourage me to always do extra credit if I have the option to or go above and beyond and not just do the bare minimum. Sometimes it's nice to have the reminder to always go above and beyond or do extra credit if I have the option because sometimes I don't want to. Sometimes having someone reminding you of all the stuff you should do can be annoying, but it can also be helpful and nice. Some days I just want to sit down and do nothing even if I have something to do, and that's when it's really nice to have something there to encourage you to finish your task and then relax. If my family didn't always remind me to do extra credit or just finish a little extra of something, I might not always choose to.

In conclusion, my family makes every day special for me by just being there for me and encouraging me to be the best me that I can be and to make the best out of my day. Sometimes even just the smallest things can make a huge difference in your everyday life. So when you are wondering what your parents do for you every day think about the little stuff, because sometimes that's what makes a difference.



**Eila Moran**

“How Even the Smallest Things Can Make a Huge Difference”  
3rd Place Written, Middle School



# december

sun	mon	tue	wed	thurs	fri	sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						First Day of Winter
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day Hanukkah Begins	Kwanzaa Begins		
29	30	31				
		New Year's Eve				

## November 2024

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## January 2025

				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

[www.NJChildSupport.org](http://www.NJChildSupport.org)  
1-877-NJKIDS1

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

Protector.  
Teacher.  
Monster Checker.  
**Dad.**



1.877.NJKids1 njchildsupport.org

**PensiónInfantil.**  
No se trata sólo de dinero.

Amigo.  
Compañero de juego.  
Chofer.  
**Papá.**



1.877.NJKids1 njchildsupport.org

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' Office of Child Support Services recognizes the importance of child support to the economic well-being of NJ families. This calendar is one example of how we get information out to families across the state about our child support program and to share our message that "child support is more than just money." It's also about time – and teaching, protecting, playing, mentoring – being there to care, share, celebrate and support.

Call 1-877-NJKIDS1 or visit [www.njchildsupport.org](http://www.njchildsupport.org).

**Hero.  
Nurturer.  
Boo-boo Fixer.  
Dad.**



**Parents have so many roles.**

Each one is important. And each one requires time, patience and love.  
Whether you live with your children or not, support them in every way possible.  
Remember, child support is more than just money.

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

[njchildsupport.org](http://njchildsupport.org)  
1.877.NJKids1  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
New Jersey Judiciary

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.

1-877-NJKIDS1  
[www.njchildsupport.org](http://www.njchildsupport.org)

Phil Murphy, Governor | Tahesha L. Way, Lt. Governor  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

Listener.  
Buddy.  
Jungle Gym.  
**Mom.**

**ChildSupport.**  
It's more than just money.



1.877.NJKids1 njchildsupport.org