

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Winners of Catholic Charities Safe Dates Poster Contest**

**December 15, 2009, Jersey City, NJ-** Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark launched its Safe Dates Poster contest among the ninth graders of Marist High School of Bayonne and Hudson Catholic of Jersey City. Based on a grant received from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Catholic Charities' School Social Services teaches a safe date course to prevent unhealthy relationships. The course is taught to ninth grade students of various high schools. Safe Dates is designed to educate young people about healthy relations. Students learn skills to help themselves: positive communication, anger management conflict resolution, as well as resources to help friends in abusive relationships. The program is provided in Hudson County at Marist High School of Bayonne and Hudson Catholic of Jersey City. It is also provided in Union County at Benedictine High School, St. Patrick and St. Mary High Schools all of Elizabeth.

As part of the curriculum, students competed in a poster contest. Students made posters about what they learned. The posters are an excellent way to reinforce lessons about the prevention of dating violence. The contest gives the students an opportunity to display their creative and artistic abilities while educating others about safe dates. The winning posters will be displayed at the Newport Center Mall of Jersey City and the Bayonne Library throughout the school year. For more information about the Safe Dates Program contact Shelley Steinberg, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark School Social Services at 973-266-7983 or [ssteinberg@ccannj.org](mailto:ssteinberg@ccannj.org).

**ABOUT CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK**

Catholic Charities is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit social service agency of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. As one of New Jersey's oldest and largest social service agencies, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark serves approximately 80,000 individuals and families each year to gain assistance and a greater sense of self-worth and dignity. This mission is pursued through a network of caring, effective, and well-managed social service programs within the four counties served by the Archdiocese Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union. Catholic Charities focuses on strengthening and preserving family life while restoring the dignity of each individual. Our services are offered to all persons in need, regardless of age, race, color, religion, national origin, culture, or sex. For more information, visit [www.ccannj.com](http://www.ccannj.com).

**About Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

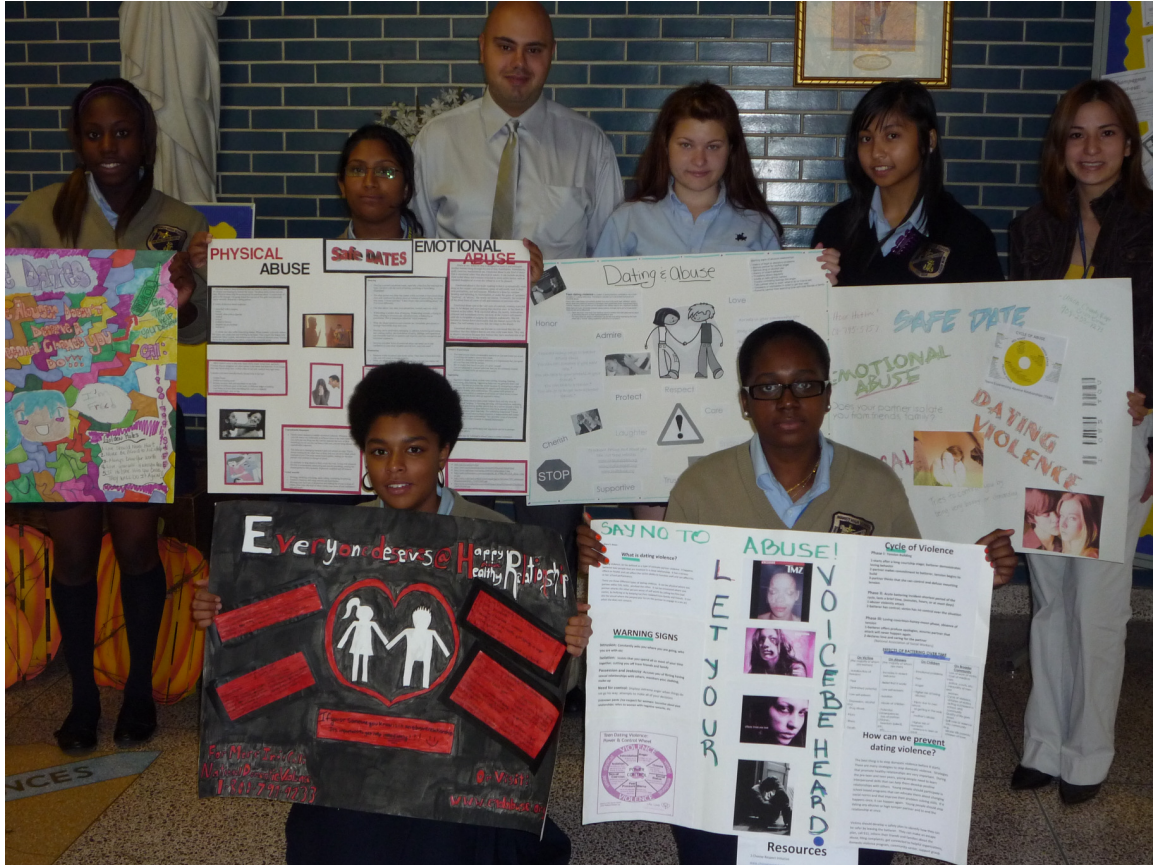
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime. For more information, visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org).

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*Supporting the Mission of the Archdiocese of Newark – Providing Help, Creating Hope*

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**Marist High School of Bayonne Ninth Grade Student Safe Date Poster Finalists with their teacher Justin Cetro center and Diane Torres Safe Date Instructor Top Row Right End**



**Hudson Catholic Regional High School of Jersey City Ninth Grade Student Safe Dates Poster Finalists**