

## **Children's Art Contest to benefit children, deadline March 31**

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March 10, 2011 - It's time for the annual children's art contest hosted by the Fannin County Children's Center. The local nonprofit organization that helps abused and neglected children is seeking artwork from area children and youth.

Two winning entries which best illustrate the theme "Open Your Heart" will be reproduced on cards to help the agency raise funds to provide advocacy, counseling and other critical support services for the abused and neglected children of Fannin County. Winners will also be awarded special ribbons and prizes courtesy of Dr. Jim and Valerie Tarpley.

"It is always so fun to look at what kids create for this contest," said Sandy Barber, Executive Director of the Children's Center. "Kids love to draw and kids love to help others. This contest includes both."

"Winning entries in the past have included hearts, kids, families and bright, cheerful colors," said Barber. Organizers suggest that children may want to include the words "Open Your Heart" and "Children's Center" in their drawings.

The winning artist will receive a \$100 gift card to WalMart and their artwork will be reproduced on the front of the campaign card. Second place will win a \$50 gift card to WalMart and have their artwork included inside of the card.

All artwork will be on display and the winners will be recognized at the Children's Center during their annual open house on April 21 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The artwork will also be displayed at the Creative Arts Center from April 29 - May 7. Winners will also be recognized at the opening reception at the Creative Arts Center in Bonham on Friday, April 29, from 4-6 p.m.

Artwork must be turned in by March 31 at the Children's Center at 112 West Fifth in Bonham. Entry forms, which include complete contest rules and information, can be picked up at the Children's Center or downloaded from the agency website at [www.fanninccc.org](http://www.fanninccc.org). For more information, call (903) 583-4339.