



Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 25, 2009

Media Contacts:

Yahaira García-Perea 559.263.1024

Sanctuary Shelter Becomes Art Gallery during December Arthop

- Youth art sale to raise funds for Valley's only runaway youth shelter -

(Fresno, CA) Art created by participants of Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission's (EOC) Sanctuary Youth Services programs will be displayed and sold during December's Arthop hosted by EOC's Sanctuary Youth Shelter. The event, which also dubs as an open house, will be held Thursday, December 3, 2009, between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The Shelter is located at 1545 N. Street in Downtown Fresno.

Throughout the month of November – which is also National Runaway Awareness Prevention Month – local artists volunteered their time and talent, and mentored youth and young adults in EOC's Sanctuary Youth Services programs including Sanctuary Youth Shelter, Sanctuary Outreach to the Streets, and Transitional Living Centers. The project allowed youth to express their life experiences creatively through art. Approximately 30 original drawings, paintings, and photographs will be sold during the Arthop and will range in price between \$20 - \$50; a calendar themed "Angels Among Us", which features youth artwork, will also be sold for \$10 a piece. All proceeds will directly benefit EOC's Sanctuary Youth Shelter and the youth it serves.

EOC's Sanctuary Youth Services provides a "continuum of care" to assist runaway, homeless, and otherwise displaced youth with successful transition from adolescence into adulthood. Sanctuary Youth Services operates an emergency shelter for 11-17 year old youth in crisis; provides outreach services to homeless youth and families on the streets; operates three transitional living centers to assist 16-24 year old youth with preparation for sustainable, independent living; and maintains Safe Place sites throughout Fresno County to facilitate youth access to shelter and services.

About Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC)

For over 44 years, Fresno County EOC – a private, nonprofit agency – has helped low-income Fresno County residents become self-sufficient. EOC offers over 30 comprehensive community-based programs that develop an individual's capabilities and places them on the path toward financial independence.

###