

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ann Bauer 415.289.7365

### *Gentle Giants Along Our Coast: Gray Whale Art Contest*

The Marine Mammal Center presents the *Gentle Giants Along Our Coast: Gray Whale Art Contest*. This contest was open to elementary school children who recently enjoyed our The Whale Bus™ program, “Wonderful Whales.” The Center selected 6 winners from grades 1-5 (one tie) from Clarendon Alternative Elementary, Franham Elementary School, Lagunita Elementary School and Bardin Elementary School. The [winning entries](#) are featured here. Thank you to all the students who submitted artwork; it truly was a difficult decision. The winners will receive a decade T-shirt, a copy of *Barny and Nicole's Whale of an Adventure* by Char Bishop and a copy of *Zoobooks Whales*. In addition, they will be entered in a raffle for a miniature marble statue of a gray whale, created by artist Warren Arnold, founder of The Whale Project.

The contest was inspired by a partnership between The Whale Project and The Center. Both are dedicated to the preservation of these majestic animals and to educating on the importance of ensuring their survival. The Whale Project combines art and nature into totemic sculptures, which mark the safe passage of the gray whale along the northern California coastline. The Guardian of the Gate statue, which will be placed at The Center located in the Marin Headlands just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, is one of this series.

The Marine Mammal Center, a non-profit rehabilitation hospital, rescues marine mammals that are ill, injured or orphaned along 600 miles of northern and central California coastline. The Center uniquely combines its rehabilitation program with scientific discovery and education programs. The year 2002 marks The Center's 27th year of conserving marine mammals and their habitat.

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