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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation Announces Winners of the Inaugural Card Design Contest**

**St. Louis, MO, March 1, 2022** - The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation (CSF) has implemented a new project where people submitted an art piece for a Christmas card. The instructions were for the artist to show what “Christmas Spirit” means to them. We offered cash prizes for first, second and third place in both youth (under 18) and adult categories.

Three judges were enlisted to score each entry on two categories. None of the judges are currently members of the CSF Board of Trustees or staff, although they are familiar with the Foundation and its mission to improve Christmas Spirit. Here’s a brief description of the judges:

Judge 1 – a retired schoolteacher and Christmas tree farmer

Judge 2 – a Family Readiness Support Specialist who coordinates the Trees for Troops event at a large joint military base

Judge 3 – a videographer and artist

The judges reported that the entries were fun and impressive. One judge said, “Man this was hard, not trying to sound cliché. The artistry, symbolism, overall imagery, and “Christmas” Spirit, as well as those that were handmade vs computer graphics or photo-shopped entries, just added to difficult decisions.”

“We are excited to be able to offer yet another opportunity to advance the Christmas Spirit for individuals young and old, especially in today’s unpredictable financial and health times,” said CSF Chairman, Dick Darling.

Here are the winners:

Youth 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Jade Pagan Abreu, Suffolk, VA



Youth 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Gabriella Pagan Abreu, Suffolk, VA



Youth 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Lexi Garcia, Rockford, IL



Adult 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Bill Wilczek, Littleton, NH



Adult 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Ellie Tetley, St. Louis, MO



Adult 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Bettina Klein-Spotts, St. Robert, MO



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**ABOUT the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation**

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that works to recognize and support the true spirit of Christmas through programs such as the Trees for Troops® program. The foundation was established in 2005. To learn more, visit: [www.christmasspiritfoundation.org](http://www.christmasspiritfoundation.org)