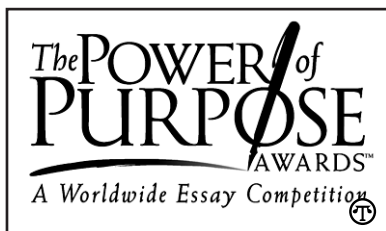


Essay Contest To Award Half A Million Dollars In Prizes

(NAPSA)—A worldwide essay competition, designed to encourage people to think about the benefits of purpose, invites submissions through May 31, 2004. The Power of Purpose Awards, being conducted entirely on the Internet at www.powerofpurpose.org, is soliciting thought-provoking, well-reasoned essays about noble purpose—why we need purpose, why we want purpose, and how we can turn it into a result with active power, the spark that makes ordinary people do extraordinary things.

The value of having an individual goal—or purpose—has been around since the beginning of time. But interest in purpose and its power has recently exploded, as evidenced by the astonishing sales record of the book *The Purpose Driven Life*—13 million copies sold—written by Rick Warren, one of the five distinguished judges for this contest. Everyone, it seems, would like to have a life filled with more meaning. What can be done to steer people to humanitarian service? What public policy should be changed to improve lives? How can people be persuaded to help a neighbor, instead of focusing only on their own needs? How can an idea from one single individual blossom into a group working as a team toward a noble goal?

Power of Purpose Awards Judge Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, says, "All movements are the result of conscious and courageous decisions



If you have written a compelling essay you may win \$100,000 by submitting it to www.powerofpurpose.org.

by people who are driven by their common sense of purpose. Your thoughts can create change in our chaotic world." Nancy Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, who is also serving as a judge, notes that, "One person, one volunteer, one partner at a time has turned my foundation's promises into a purpose."

No fee is required to enter this competition. The panel of judges will select the 19 winners who will be awarded one grand prize of \$100,000; four awards of \$50,000; four awards of \$25,000; and 10 awards of \$10,000. Essays should fall into one of four categories: Personal Reflection, Journalistic Report, Scientific Inquiry, and Fiction. Entrants must be 18 years of age or older. Essays must be no longer than 3,500 words and must be written in English. Winners will be announced in September 2004. This competition is sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation. For entry forms and more information visit www.powerofpurpose.org.