

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2011

Contact:
Katie Pellerin
kpellerin@trulymovingpictures.org
317.464.9405 ext. 12

**Heartland Truly Moving Pictures Announces Winners of its
Second Annual High School Film Competition**

Heartland encourages young filmmakers with cash prizes and awards

INDIANAPOLIS (Aug. 10, 2011) – Heartland Truly Moving Pictures announced the winners of the second annual Heartland High School Film Competition today, honoring five aspiring, young filmmakers with a total of \$4,500 in cash prizes and more.

Grand Prize winner Miguel Lopez of Fontana, California took top honors with his film *Sacrifices of My Father*. Lopez's film is a short documentary addressing the courageous acts of selflessness and determination that his father, Miguel Lopez Sr. embodies daily for his family's best interest.

"I was overwhelmed by the idea that my father's film was acknowledged by such a renowned organization," said Lopez, a recent graduate of A.B. Miller High School in Fontana, California. "I believe, without a doubt, that I will pursue ... the power of film to celebrate the average man. Everybody has a story. Whether it be of struggle, talent, joy, its important that these stories be heard."

As the Grand Prize winner, Lopez will be awarded \$2,500, paid travel and accommodations for him and one parent/guardian as well as his sponsoring teacher to attend the 2011 Heartland Film Festival, along with two FEST Passes to the Festival where *Sacrifices of My Father* will be screened as part of the Heartland High School Film Competition shorts program. He will also be honored onstage during the 2011 Heartland Film Festival Awards Gala.

"In our second year of the Competition we are reaffirmed in the amazing stories aspiring filmmakers have to tell," said Claire Norton, Director of the Heartland Institute. "These youth are telling powerful stories despite limited resources. I can't imagine anything better than being able to give these deserving youth a platform to reach a larger audience and provide them with a monetary award to help further their careers. They are a truly deserving group of winners and we are so proud to honor them."

Other winners include four finalists: Joel Rosales of Fontana, Calif. (*You Walk I Glide*), Jon Sheets of Valparaiso, Ind. (*Soap*), Nic Weinfeld of Silver Spring, Md. (*The 36*) Chad Werner of Fort Worth, Texas. (____).

Lopez, Sheets, Weinfeld and Werner will each be awarded \$500 and two FEST Passes to the 2011 Heartland Film Festival where their films will be screened as part of the Heartland High School Film Competition shorts program. They will also receive recognition during the 2011 Heartland Film Festival Awards Gala.

About the Heartland High School Film Competition

During Heartland's second annual High School Film Competition, aspiring high school filmmakers were asked to concept, shoot and edit their own film, ten minutes or less, that embodied the 2011 theme: COURAGE. The competition was open to all currently enrolled high school students who had not graduated prior to the spring of 2011. Film submissions were judged on criteria similar to that of the Heartland Film Festival, including artistic excellence, technical merit and representation of Heartland's organizational values such as: hope, integrity, tolerance and courage.

Winners' films will be screened as part of the Heartland High School Film Competition shorts program during the 2011 Heartland Film Festival, Oct. 13-22 in Indianapolis, Ind. The complete schedule of films and special events will be announced Sept. 13. Tickets go on sale Sept. 23. For additional information, visit HeartlandFilmFestival.org.

The 2012 Heartland High School Film Competition theme is HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND TRUTH. For more information visit: <http://www.trulymovingpictures.org/institute/high-school-film-competition/>

Heartland Truly Moving Pictures, a non-profit arts organization, seeks to promote positive change in people's lives through the transformative power of film. Its flagship event, the Heartland Film Festival®, launched in 1991 and runs each October in Indianapolis, screening independent films from around the world. Each year, the Festival awards more than \$150,000 in cash prizes and presents its Crystal Heart Awards to the top-judged submissions. Heartland has awarded more than \$2.3 million to support filmmakers during the last 19 years. The organization's Truly Moving Picture Award was created to honor films released theatrically that align with Heartland's mission. By bestowing this award seal to honored films, the award allows studios and distributors to inform audiences of a film's transformative power and appeal. Heartland is also dedicated to cultivating youth, and thus created the Heartland Institute to provide innovative educational and outreach programs that enrich the minds and lives of youth and aspiring filmmakers. For more information, visit TrulyMovingPictures.org.

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