



# PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Children learn “Mr. Yuk Means No!”** National Poison Prevention Week

For the first time in Washington State, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are participating in a statewide poster contest this March in recognition of National Poison Prevention Week (also known as “Mr. Yuk Week”), March 19-25<sup>th</sup>. The poster contest was made possible by a grant from the Group Health Community Foundation and is conducted by the Washington Poison Center. This contest is open to all 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders who participate in a local poster contest through their school, youth group or other community programs. This year’s theme is “Mr. Yuk Means No!” reminding children that if they see Mr. Yuk they should stay away and ask an adult for help. Mr. Yuk is also used to remind adults that poisonous products, such as personal care items, household cleaners, medications and garden or yard products should be kept out of reach and view of children and pets. Mr. Yuk stickers have the national toll-free poison hotline number: **1-800-222-1222** just in case an accident does happen.

“Poster contests are a great way to increase awareness of poison safety and the Poison Center through a creative and engaging activity with our youth,” said Kerri Booth, Education Coordinator of the Washington Poison Center. “We hope every home will be a Mr. Yuk home.”

The winning poster will be used as the official Washington State poster for Poison Prevention Week 2007 and will be displayed on billboards and posters throughout the state. The poster unveiling is scheduled for May 9, 2006 at the Seattle Center House. Former First Lady and Honorary Safe Kids Chairperson, Mona Locke, will be presenting the awards. More information on the poster contest, including contest rules and a complete list of prizes can be found at [www.wapc.org](http://www.wapc.org).

## About National Poison Prevention Week

Congress established National Poison Prevention Week more than forty years ago to raise awareness of unintentional poisonings. Governor Christine Gregoire recently signed a proclamation proclaiming March 19-25, 2006, as Poison Prevention Week in Washington State. Over one million poisonings involving small children are reported to poison centers each year. Many of these poisonings could have been prevented. Poison centers organize events during this special week to educate parents and others about which household products are poisonous, how to prevent poisonings from occurring and what to do if a poisoning occurs.

## About the Washington Poison Center

The Washington Poison Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, prevents harm from poisonings by being the primary resource for poison treatment, education and prevention. Reachable 24/7, the national poison hotline: **1-800-222-1222** will connect you to specially-trained nurses, pharmacists and poison specialists. Poison help is always free and confidential. Services are available for people with hearing problems and for non-English speakers. During the month of March, QFC grocery stores will be collecting donations for the Washington Poison Center at all cash registers.

## About the Group Health Community Foundation

Group Health Community Foundation improves the health of communities through grantmaking, fundraising, community programs, and evaluation and research.

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*State-level poster contest made possible by a grant from the:*

GROUP HEALTH  
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