



**A**nd some South Side school kids are giving grown-ups an education. When a High Park bank sponsored a contest on the theme of “My Neighborhood”, they found out just how fast some kids grow up.

From the mouth of babes, from the crayons of children : images of neighborhood where behavior is hardly neighborly :

- ... *shooting around there, selling drugs...*

The contest started out as a way for the bank to collect some childlike drawings and essays for a brochure on neighborhood reinvestment. What they got was very different. What they got was a child’s eye view of a life that no child should have to endure.

**Tim GOODSSELL Pres. Hyde Park Bank**

- *Er...we began to see there was a content there that was a lot more powerful than anything we had anticipated.*

Powerful drawings like this one by seven-year-old Lakina Lollar who lives in the RobertTaylor Homes :

**Lakina LOLLAR**

- *Please stop the shooting, we can’t play.*

Lakina was one of 29 children who won cash prizes for their work. Donte Goodwin was another :

**Donte GOODWIN**

- *The drugs, the gangs, the killings, made me have this feeling, not of hope, not of love, but of hate.*

Yet not all the visions were so bleak. This seventh-grader shows where he likes to walk for snacks :

- *Do you feel safe in your neighborhood ?*

- *Sure, there’s none of the shooting or anything around here.*

**Tim GOODSSELL Pres. Hyde Park Bank**

- *There’s tremendous talent, there’s tremendous energy, there’s tremendous creativity, and there’s tremendous hope. All these kids are – are tremendous hope for the future.*

They’ll need all their talent to paint a happier version of future neighborhoods.

**Lilia Chacon, FOX NEWS CHICAGO.**