

#### Item #4) Chemists Celebrate Earth Day Report

Our Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) celebration plans this year began in early March when students (Grades K-12) in our Local Section area were invited through their teachers to submit Illustrated Poems on the theme "Recycling: It's Easy to be Green". For the first time ever we received a response from **five schools** and 3 grade levels (3-5; 6-8; 9-12).

One winning entry from each grade level was selected and sent on to the National competition (results will be posted on the ACS website shortly).

On April 21 we once again cooperated with the Kalamazoo Nature Center (KNC) as host for our outreach during their Earth Day event - another first was the participation from Kalamazoo College (Josh Abbott, Lynza Halberstadt, Margarite Matossian, Agust Olafsson, Caity VanGelderren), Western Michigan University (Brianna Hyder) and Kalamazoo Valley Community College (Kim Greve) who along with Lydia Hines, our Section's CCED coordinator, spent a gorgeous day handing out materials related to this year's CCED theme - **"Rethinking Recycling: It's Easy to be Green"** - and sharing the fun and applications of chemistry with visitors of a large age range. We talked about "Green Parenting", Recycling codes, talked about "Magic Sand" properties, as well as polymers and the use of super-absorbent polymer in diapers, and made Silly Putty with about 150 young children – the accompanying parents liked it, too ☺. In all our conversations we emphasized chemists' positive contributions to our environment. Though we did not see as many classroom teachers as in prior years several home-schooling families came by and were thankful to know about KACS' outreach efforts