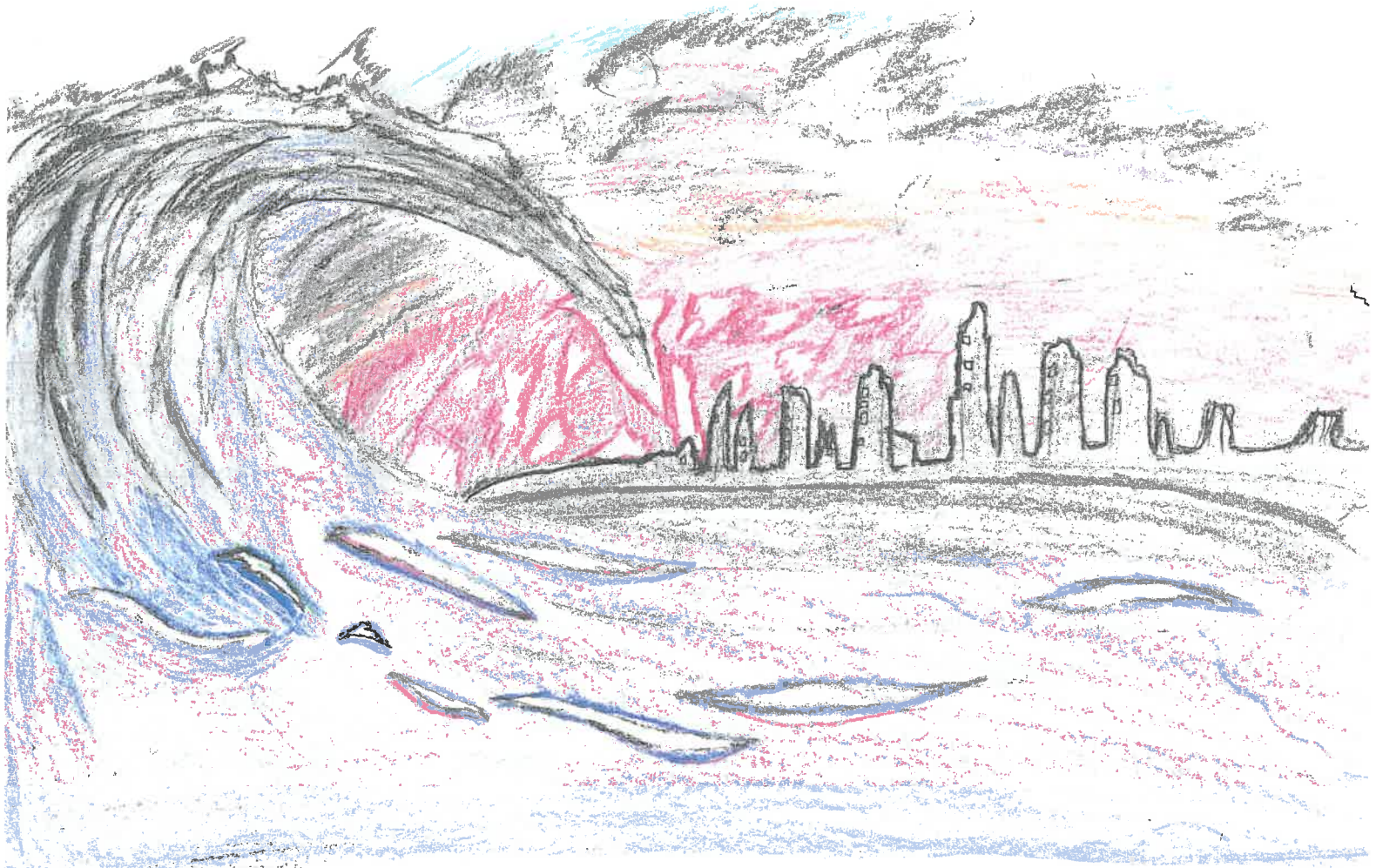
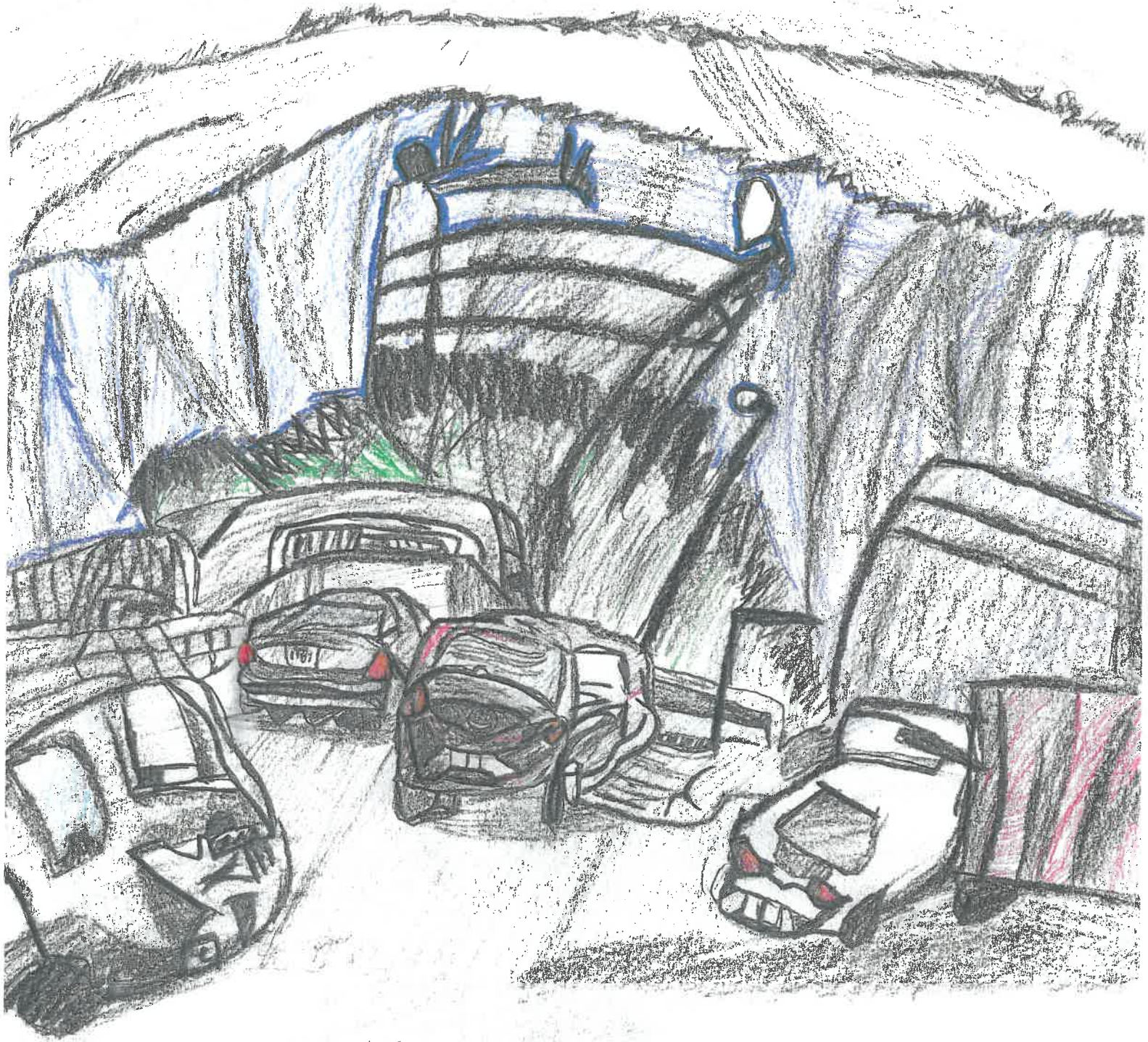


A Way Back Home



By: Rylee Erdlitz



I am currently stuck in traffic waiting to get out of this nightmare. My whole family is frightened since this never happened to us. We usually hear mind blowing tsunami stories on the news, but not in real life. My mom keeps saying everything is going to be alright, but I don't agree with her. It's at this moment we see people sprinting across the highway. Before I know it water fills my ears, and my lungs shrivel, and then it all goes black.



My eyes open wide, and I hear meowing yet I have no idea where I am. The cat almost looks like Laka. No! It is Laka! If it weren't for Laka, I'd be full of despair. Hearing Laka meow makes me want to try to get us out of this unfamiliar place. I pick up Laka and start walking on all of the wreckage.



The wreckage of my beloved city makes my heart drop. As I'm walking on the wreckage, I see a building. How could there be a building and how is it standing I wonder. I hear voices coming from the building so I kick the wreckage that's in my way and open the door to the unknown building hoping for my family to be in there. As I open the door only a few people are in here, people that are injured or hurt. Nobody is really speaking, and yeah I get it its hard to speak after of what just happened or still happening.



So, I go to a near by corner, and sit there thinking of where my family is. My clothes are soaking wet and its very cold I can't help but turn into a crying mess. I feel like I can't do anything, people all around me aren't doing anything and I feel helpless. All I want to do is be with my family. I'm not sure that will ever happen though. I pick Laka up ,and hold her tight in my arms. I think of all the happy memories back when everything was alright and now I'm sitting here wondering if I'll ever be with them again.



I wait and wait for something to happen. Laka is sleeping in my lap and I'm at least glad she's here with me since she was all alone during the tsunami I'm just glad she's okay. As I'm petting Laka I hear a familiar voice, "Percy!" The person calls. Instantly I know that voice is my Dad! "Mom, dad, Eduardo!" I shout back. I get up from my little corner, and run as fast as I can toward them. "Laka! Laka is alive!" My mom says holding back her tears. "Yeah she is, I woke up and she was right beside me." I say. We all talk about what we did during the tragedy of the tsunami and my dad said he'd cried and cried when they lost me. So, finally we are all together happy even though our house is gone we know where our real home is, together.