



MAT HECK, JR.
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Montgomery County, Ohio
(937) 225-5757
info@mcpo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25th Annual Violence Prevention Project Awards Ceremony
Prosecutor Also Recognizes National Teacher Appreciation Week

DAYTON, OH (5/6/2015) – On Wednesday, May 6, 2014 at noon, Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced the winners of the 25th annual Violence Prevention Project. The event was held at the Dayton Masonic Temple, 525 W. Riverview Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.

During the awards ceremony, the winners of the 25th Annual Violence Prevention Contest were announced and recognized. The top 150 students were invited to attend the ceremony and enjoy a free pizza lunch, courtesy of Dayton's Original Pizza Factory. Prosecutor Heck also recognized the many area teachers who were present or participated and encouraged their students to submit posters or essays, noting that this is National Teacher Appreciation Week.

This year, nearly 1,300 entries were submitted by students from over 40 area schools. The Violence Prevention Project encourages Montgomery County's youth to submit a poster or write an essay describing how violence affects our community and ways to prevent violence. Common themes were bullying, shootings, and drug and alcohol abuse, showing that our youth are aware of the dangers and understand the causes of violence.

Every participant received a prize. The ceremony recognized some of the best entries, and those participants were awarded additional prizes. Sponsorship of the Violence Prevention Project this year came from Montgomery County Sheriff Phil Plummer, Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl, Centerville Police Chief Bruce Robertson, King's Island, the Kroger Aquatic Center at The Heights, Aullwood Audubon Center, GZK Restaurant Systems, Dairy Queen, Wal-Mart, the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Evans Bakery and Mike-Sells Potato Chips.

Many of the posters submitted to the contest will be featured in Prosecutor Heck's 2016 Violence Prevention Calendar. Annually, over 6,000 copies of the calendar are distributed to residents and students in the Miami Valley.

Prosecutor Heck added, "Violence is a public health problem that has a substantial impact on individuals, their families and communities. Youth violence touches all of us, and we all have a role in preventing it. This project gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the positive efforts of these students."

###