



MAT HECK, JR.
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. Announces
29th Annual Violence Prevention Project Awards Ceremony**

DAYTON, OH (5/1/2019) – Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. held his 29th annual Violence Prevention Project Award Ceremony today at the Dayton Masonic Center, 525 W. Riverview Avenue, Dayton, Ohio.

Over 1,000 students submitted entries for the contest. Prizes and awards were given to the top 150 winners of the project. Those students were invited to attend the ceremony and enjoyed a free pizza lunch, courtesy of Dayton's Original Pizza Factory.

The Violence Prevention Project's primary goal is to reduce the incidence of violence in Montgomery County by teaching school-age children that there are alternatives to using violence as a means to resolve personal or interpersonal problems. The Project encourages Montgomery County's youth to submit a poster or write an essay describing how violence affects our community and suggest constructive ways to prevent violence.

Many essays this year addressed the topic of bullying. The students understand that bullying can happen anywhere, but that it usually occurs when students have a lack of direct supervision. The entries also showed the various forms that bullying can take, such as verbal, social, physical, and cyber. The students recognize that discouraging the bully through negative attention and defending the intended victim can stop many incidents of bullying. The students also recognize that classmates who are victims of bullying may turn to violence as a way to handle conflict.

Every student who entered the contest will receive a prize. Today's ceremony recognized some of the best entries, and those participants were awarded additional prizes. Continuing support for the Violence Prevention Project came from Montgomery County Sheriff Rob Streck, Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl, the Brookville, Centerville, and Kettering Police Departments, the Aullwood Audubon Center, the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Buffalo Wild Wings, Dayton Masonic Center, Dayton's Original Pizza Factory, Elsa's, King's Island, the Kroger Aquatic Center at The Heights, Mike-Sells Potato Chips, Panera Bread, Pies and Pints, Poelking Lanes, Shumsky, Skyline Chili, SportClips, Submarine House, and What's Poppin'.

Photos from the event and the winning posters will be featured in Prosecutor Heck's annual Violence Prevention Calendar, which is distributed each year.

###