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Montgomery County Family and Children First Council Recognizes Matthew Hawley with Award

Today, the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council will present the Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph. D. Award to Matthew Hawley. The 2003 Award is being given to Mr. Hawley who has shown dedication and commitment to children in the Volunteers of America Dayton Community Center since 1996.

Mr. Hawley is being honored due to his dedication and enthusiasm for his job. He works his normal 40 hours each week with the kids and then “volunteers” on weekends and other times just to see that the kids have a safe place to come or leads them in primitive campouts. As a mentor, he has helped some of his youth become not only productive citizens, but volunteers in the community as well. “By teaching and exhibiting self control and self discipline combined with self defense instruction, the children in the programs can begin to feel safe which is necessary to develop better self esteem, which leads the child to be able to effectively take control of his or her life.” wrote Kevin Hurt, the person who nominated Mr. Hawley for the award. “This is the philosophy and principals which allow Matt to develop programs that engage the children and help them grow as individuals,” Hurt continued.

The Council created this Award as a tribute to Brother Fitz, past president of the University of Dayton, for being its first Chair from 1996 to 1999, for his years of leadership and service to the community. He also served as Chair of the New Futures/Youth and Family Collaborative for the Greater Dayton Area from 1994-1995, and he co-chaired the Montgomery County Child Protection Task Force from November 1993 to February 1995.

Mr. Hawley will receive a commissioned sculpture of children at play, and be honored at the annual awards luncheon. The Council will solicit nominations for the 2004 Award in the fall.