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News Release

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Winners of the GCCHD and Rural HIV Collaborative Poetry/Video Contest Announced

(XENIA, OH) The Greene County Combined Health District (GCCHD) and the Rural HIV Collaborative (RHC) are pleased to announce the winners of the first HIV/AIDS Poetry and Video Contest.

The contest was open to grades 7th through college (09-10 school year) in the counties of Champaign, Clark, Clinton, Fayette, Greene, Miami, Shelby and Warren. Students were encouraged to share their thoughts, feelings and beliefs to create either a 30 second video or a poem featuring a topic of their choosing as it related to HIV/AIDS. Suggestions included stigma and HIV, prevention strategies, and HIV/AIDS basics for kids, just to name a few. Entries were judged based on content, creativity and youth peer to peer impact.

The winning entries will receive \$200 at the 14th annual "Keeping It Real" Conference on November 9th at Wright State University's Student Union Building. The winning poem will appear in the Rural HIV Collaborative Conference Program and the winning video will be available for viewing during the conference.

- **Poetry Winner:** Kody McDonald of Jamestown, Ohio, Yellow Springs HS – Poem entitled "Please Don't Cry"
- **Video Winner:** The team of Zeb Reichert, 11th grader; Sam Morrison, 11th grader; and Ryan Phillips, 12th grader; all of Yellow Springs HS.

These winners are all students of Melena Elum, Media Arts Teacher at Yellow Springs High School.

For further information on GCCHD or the Rural HIV Collaborative, contact Shernaz Reporter at sreporter@gcchd.org or 937-374-5617.

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