

Notification of News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montgomery Police Keep Kids from Getting “Caught in the Web”

(MONTGOMERY, Ohio) –

The youth of today are more independent than ever, and the internet provides a forum for expression that parents never had and few understood. This new-found freedom of expression is a problem. Kids are making comments not normally expressed face to face, sharing inappropriate photos and visiting questionable web sites.

City of Montgomery Police Officers Paul Payne and Tom Wagner saw an opportunity to help. Payne and Wagner discovered that teens are particularly vulnerable to dangerous on-line behavior. Because teens are more independent and highly computer savvy, they are more willing to use the technology in an inappropriate manner, and are more likely to be lured into a feeling of invulnerability. “Caught in the Web” was created to teach today’s youth more about responsible web usage.

The program doesn’t just teach what appropriate on-line behavior is and what it is not. The program demonstrates how poor decision-making and bad behavior can haunt kids later on in life. “Things posted on the web are there forever, so potential employers, college admissions boards, just about anyone, can gain access to You-Tube videos, Facebook pages, Twitter, and other social networking accounts to find out more about an individual,” commented Wagner.

Officer Wagner presented the program to 100 students at the Northeast Community Challenge Coalition Leadership Conference in Houston Woods this summer. The Northeast Community Challenge Coalition or NECC was created in the early 80s “...to mobilize every sector of the community into making illegal use of drugs and alcohol socially unacceptable, and to educate the community about the importance of sending clear, consistent messages about the health and legal effects of underage drinking and other drug use.” The NECCs commitment to encourage our youth self respect and a sense of personal and moral responsibility goes hand in hand with the message from “Caught in the Web.”

To date, more than 5,000 students, parents and educators have seen the program, and officers’ Payne and Wagner receive regular requests from various organizations to talk about the program.

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