



GOAL EVERYONE MATTERS

www.gemprojectdayton.org

November 1, 2023

Dear School Teachers, Coaches, Counselors, and Those Who Interact with Youth,

GEM Project Dayton is a local group of young people with a mission to spread messages of hope and endurance in the Dayton area. GEM stands for *Goal: Everyone Matters*, and our mission is to spread awareness about suicide prevention. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in youth aged 10 to 24, and our team wants to change this statistic.

We are launching our 3rd Art Contest for Suicide Prevention on November 1, and we hope your students will participate. The contest is **open to youth in grades 6 - 12**, and students will use their creativity to convey messages of hope to encourage those who are struggling. Students will submit artwork that will be judged by students, artists, and mental health professionals, and the **winners will receive \$5,000+ in cash prizes**. This year the **Montgomery County Arts and Cultural Arts District has awarded the GEM Art Contest a \$10,000 Culture Works grant** to create awareness media, such as banners, posters, yard signs, and notecards with the GEM artwork to encourage people who struggle with their mental health to keep on going. **We will be accepting submissions December 1 - January 5, and the in-person award ceremony will be held on February 25**. More details and rules for the contest can be found on our website at www.gemprojectdayton.org.

We are asking for your help to advertise this contest to encourage as many students as possible to participate. If you would like more information about our mission or would like to see artwork from our past contests, check out our website www.gemprojectdayton.org. If you have questions or would like us to send more of the enclosed flyers, please email us at gemprojectdayton@gmail.com or call (937) 294-3816.

Thank you for your consideration!

Leigh Ann Fulford, Director

