



GOAL EVERYONE MATTERS

www.gemprojectdayton.org

October 10, 2024

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

GEM Project Dayton is run by a local group of students with a mission to spread messages of hope and resilience in the Dayton area. GEM stands for *Goal: Everyone Matters*, and our mission is to spread awareness about suicide prevention. Suicide is a leading cause of death in youth, and our team wants to change this statistic with our JumpstART Conversations campaign. You can see how we combine the GEM artwork created by local youth with our prevention messaging in the enclosed 28-month calendar printed with last year's generous grant from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District. We also provide presentations, bookmarks, and other resources.

We are launching our 4th Art Contest for Suicide Prevention on October 10, World Mental Health Awareness Day, and we hope you will help us promote it to the youth you work with. The contest is **open to students in grades 6 - 12**, and we invite youth to use their creativity to convey messages of hope to encourage those who struggle with their mental health. Students submit artwork that is judged anonymously by students, professional artists, and mental health specialists. The winners receive cash awards at our awards ceremony in February. We are different from most contests because we present at least **one cash award to every participating school**. (Home school entries are combined as one category.)

If you would like more information about our mission or would like to see artwork from past contests, check out the enclosed 28-month calendar or our website www.gemprojectdayton.org. If you would like to be added to our email list or would like additional calendars, prevention resources, or flyer cards promoting our contest, send us an email.

Thank you for your support of making our community suicide safer!

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