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Youth Leadership Council Receives Statewide Recognition

Newark, OH – October 4, 2016 — ADAPAO, the oldest statewide prevention association in Ohio announced that it has named the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of Licking County (Pathways of Central Ohio) their 2016 Youth Prevention Organization of Year. The YLC is one of five recipients that will be recognized as supporting and promoting youth prevention across the state during the annual ADAPAO Garden Party on October 22nd. “We happily recognize great prevention when we see it; and the YLC is a great example of effective youth prevention in Ohio,” said ADAPAO Executive Director Jim Ryan.

The Youth Leadership Council is the largest youth-led prevention and leadership development initiative in Licking County. High school members from across the county dedicate a year of service to making Licking County a happy, healthy, safe and drug free place to live, work and go to school. Though projects rooted in prevention education, leadership development, civic engagement and community service, the YLC strives to educate and inform professionals, parents and their peers on the dangers of substance use, abuse and violence and promote positive mental, emotional and behavioral health.

Since 2011, the YLC has dedicated 19,479 hours to engaging the community around prevention topics including substance use, bullying, suicide and violence prevention as well as raising awareness of problem gambling, eating disorders and positive mental health. “We are honored to be the first recipients of this award and to receive the recognition that comes with such an honor, said Vincent O’Neill, Newark Catholic High School Senior and current YLC President.

According to the 2015 Licking County PRIDE Survey, nearly 70% of Licking County’s sixth, eighth, tenth and twelfth grade students refrain from substance use and violent behaviors but the YLC maintains a steadfast dedication so that one day we can reach 100% . “One of the simplest and most effective ways to combat poor decision-making and unhealthy choices by young people is thorough youth prevention and leadership development,” said Bobby Persinger, Director of the Center for Prevention Services at Pathways of Central Ohio and YLC Project Director. “That’s why Pathways is dedicated to continuing the 30 year tradition of promoting youth prevention and leadership development efforts in Licking County.”

For more information on the Youth Leadership Council of Licking County visit www.kidscaretoo.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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Youth Leadership Council of Licking County

The Youth Leadership Council of Licking County is an award-winning youth prevention and leadership development project comprised of high school students who collaboratively work to help make Licking County a happy, healthy, safe and drug free place to live, work and go to school. Through prevention education, civic engagement, leadership development and community service, the YLC strives to educate and inform parents, professionals and their peers on the dangers of substance use, abuse and violence. The YLC is supported by Pathways of Central Ohio and Our Futures in Licking County. To learn more, visit www.kidscaretoo.org

Pathways of Central Ohio

Pathways of Central Ohio is a private, non-profit social service agency serving Licking, Knox, Richland, Muskingum, Perry, Morgan Counties. Pathways was established in 1968 and incorporated in 1970. Pathways is the gateway to services which empower the community to achieve success. Pathways is funded in part by Mental Health & Recovery for Licking and Knox Counties and the United Way of Licking County. To learn more, visit www.pathwaysofcentralohio.org.

