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NEWS RELEASE

**NEW AWARD NAMED FOR UD PRESIDENT BROTHER RAYMOND L. FITZ, S.M.,
RECOGNIZES HIS COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN**

DAYTON, Ohio — The Montgomery County Family and Children First Council has named a new award after Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president of the University of Dayton and first chair of the council, for his commitment to children in the community.

The Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., Ph.D., Award will be given annually to a front-line agency worker or grassroots community member “who exemplifies Brother Ray’s dedication and commitment to the cause of nurturing and protecting children as evidenced by his years of leadership and service,” according to the award’s inscription. Nominations for the award will be solicited in the fall, and the first award will be given in February 2001. A plaque listing each year’s recipient will hang in the Montgomery County Administration Building.

Larry Harkness, president and CEO of The Children’s Medical Center and current council chair, surprised Fitz with the announcement of the award. “I’m humbled by the award, but grateful that people who selflessly devote their time to the protection of children in our community will be recognized for their commitment and compassion,” Fitz said. “They are making a real difference in the lives of families.”

In the 1990s, following several highly publicized deaths of children from abuse, Fitz devoted 18 months to working with Montgomery County elected officials, professionals and citizens to create an integrated child-protection system. Fitz, who chaired the Montgomery County Child Protection Task Force and the New Futures/Youth and Family Collaborative,

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served from March 7, 1996, to Dec. 31, 1999, as the first chair of the Family and Children First Council.

When Fitz stepped down in December as chair of the council, the executive committee gave him a small book of words and art from children. The book's inscription: "With deep gratitude for your years of leadership and service as the first chair of the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council, we offer you some wisdom collected from children and families across the country. Perhaps 11-year-old Carey was speaking for you when he wrote, 'I dream to be a person who cares for the world. It aches me that I'm writing and something bad is happening right now.' For helping all of us to learn how to transform our sad awareness that 'something bad is happening' into actions that lead to better and better outcomes, we thank you."

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For more information, call **Robert L. Stoughton**, administrator of the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council, at (937) 496-3247.