

# Character Counts names March essay winner

Lynda Breese of Lincolnview is the March Character Counts WOW! essay winner in the seventh/eighth-grade division. She received a \$50 savings bond donated by Community First Bank & Trust. Breese wrote about sportsmanship:

Sportsmanship is the practice of participating in sports. It is the conduct and attitude viewed as befitting athletes, as fair play. We were taught by our parents and coaches to have good sportsmanship in all sports. Not only is it important to show good sportsmanship when you lose, but also when you win. You should show good sportsmanship before, during, and after the game. Before you start the game it is appropriate to tell the other team good luck and shake the opposing coach's hand. This is not needed, but it shows good sportsmanship. During the game, if you hurt someone in some way, you should help them up and say sorry. This means a lot to the fans, coaches, and the player you helped. If you want to be a good sport, never yell at the officials or make bad faces. That just makes you look like a poor sport. The official will not change his call just for you anyway.

It is not easy to lose a game, but it happens to everyone. You just need to remember that the other

team has worked hard and deserves to win just as much as you do. Everyone loses now and then because that's the way the game goes. Even though it's hard to watch the other team celebrate, you just have to look forward to winning the next game.

On the other hand, it is also important to be a good sport when you win. You can be happy, but you don't need to shove it in the other team's face. I think this is uncalled for because everyone who loses already feels bad enough. Having it shoved in their face makes them feel worse.

Not only is it important to be a good sport on the court, but it's more important to be a good sport off the court. Having good sportsmanship is also important in our daily lives. Not everything is going to go exactly how we plan in our lives with our friends, family, and others, so we need to know how to handle all situations, good and bad, in a positive and understanding manner.

Character Counts WOW! is a character education program for Van Wert County. It is based on the nationally recognized character education program CHARACTER COUNTS!

Both programs revolve around six pillar words — trustworthiness,



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respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship — and aim at encouraging parents to interact with their children, teachers to involve their students, and to remind the community of the importance of strong character.

Character Counts WOW! is funded in part by the Wellness Block Grant, Drug Free Program funds and other sponsors.

*Lynda is the daughter of David & Linda Merriam Breese and Granddaughter of William & Betty Breese (Ed & John E. & Lorna Merriam)*

**Venedocia postal customers donate food**  
The Venedocia postal customers donated about 500 items of nonperishable food to the National Association of Letter Carriers. The donations were given to the Salvation Army Food Pantry in Van Wert.

## Financial Update:

Needed Weekly: \$1,470.00      Needed to Date: \$29,400.00  
Rec'd 5-16-99 \$ 716.00      \*Rec'd to Date: \$27,667.44  
\*corrected figure (wife Evelyn Jones)      Center  
Auch Hoffman - Vance & Heston Rd., Van Wert  
1035 Van Wert Decatur Rd., Van Wert  
Thank You      West OH 44168 needs churning

We would like to express our gratitude for the cards and flowers that were sent and for the prayers that were made during the illness and death of our father, grand-father and brother, Richard Bassett. Your kindness will always be remembered.

The Bassett Family

*Carl Ringwald in W Co.*  
**Prayer Concerns:** Hospital      351 351 351 351 351 351  
Carl and Irene Ringwald      351 351 351 351 351 351  
Travis Snyder (leukemia)      Middle Point OH  
1551 Harrison Willshire Twp Line Road  
Ohio City, OH  
Peggy Stewart (sister-in-law of Kim Coil) cancer

50 YEARS  
AGO IN  
VAN WERT

Here is a sampling of stories from the May 19, 1949, edition of *The Times-Bulletin*:  
Edwin Adam and Clem Bienz, employees of Meadow Lane Farm No. 2 south of the city on Highway 118, were headed down through the fields. Ahead of them, standing across the fence from the Angus cattle was a nice big deer.