



CITY WINNER — Madison Dye from Blythe-Bower Elementary was chosen as the Cleveland City school winner for her tremendous artwork in the Kindness coloring contest.



COUNTY WINNER — Second-grader Mikayla Beasley from North Lee Elementary was chosen as the Bradley County school winner of the Kindness coloring contest for her creativity with color.

Kids color for kindness



Since kindness is contagious Helping Paws Healing Hearts promoted it with a "Kindness" coloring contest with the hopes everyone will catch it.

By **MELISSA SNYDER**

Banner Lifestyles Writer

Every second-grader in the city and county schools was given the opportunity to enter the third annual "Kindness" coloring contest. February being Kindness month.

Amy Hicks of Helping Paws Healing Hearts coordinated the contest to choose one winner from the city school and county school systems.

Hicks teaches lessons on character education. She and her pet pals, Larry and Daryl, work with children and promote Helping Paws Healing Hearts' mission of enriching lives of children by providing unconditional love through educational and social programming.

"We hope that by a simple reminder of kindness that we are instilling character values to last a lifetime," Hicks said.

"This very simple contest is a great way to promote kindness throughout the school building. Life is so busy and filled with computers and technology it is

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Banner photo, MELISSA SNYDER

CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER — Judging the Kindness coloring contest, sponsored by Helping Paws Healing Hearts, were Bridget Baggett from My Mix 104, officer David Michaels, Dan Howell, Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, officer Brian Stovall, officer Heather Mason and officer April Ratcliff. Standing (right) with judges is Amy Hicks of Helping Paws and pet pals Larry and Daryl, seated in front.

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nice to know that children will still take out a pack of crayons or markers and create a masterpiece.”

The teachers and counselors who chose to participate were encouraged to give students a reminder on the importance of kindness to others.

Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, Bridget Baggett from My Mix 104.1 FM Radio and Realtor Dan Howell teamed up with school resource officers April Ratcliff and Brian Stovall from Cleveland City schools and Heather Mason and David Michaels from Bradley County schools to make up the judging panel.

The selection process came to an end and Madison Dye from Blythe-Bower Elementary, in Mrs. Audrey, class was the Cleveland City school winner and Mikayla Beasley from North Lee Elementary, in Ms. Julie Fairchild'

class, was chosen as the Bradley County school winner.

Honorable mentions went to Courtney Roberts from Oak Grove Elementary, Jae'La Dunn from Mayfield Elementary, Torr Couthard from Yates Primary and Taylor Farris from Blythe-Bower Elementary.

“I greatly appreciate the teachers and parents for taking time to encourage their children to participate,” said Hicks. “I also am extremely grateful to the judges this year for taking time from their very busy schedules to come and judge. It is fun seeing the grownups having fun as well.”

In the next few days, the winners will get to celebrate with their classmates in a special ice cream party where Helping Paws Healing Hearts four-legged pals Daryl and Larry will attend as the special guests.