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**ADVENTURE THEATRE ANNOUNCES 10-MINUTE ANTI-BULLYING PLAYWRITING
CONTEST IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING MONTH**
CONTEST OPEN TO MIDDLE SCHOOLERS THROUGHOUT MONTGOMERY COUNTY

GLEN ECHO, MD – [Adventure Theatre](#), the longest-running children’s theatre in the Washington, D.C. area and recipient of the 2011 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences, in partnership with [Montgomery County](#) Recreation announces its first 10-Minute Anti-Bullying Playwriting Contest, open to Montgomery County Middle School students and sponsored by [Monument Bank](#). Submissions are due January 15, 2012. In addition to prizes, first, second and third place winners will see their work acted out by D.C. area theater professionals at a staged reading and awards ceremony March 30, 2012.

First, Second, and Third Place Winners Will Receive:

- Gift cards courtesy [Monument Bank](#) (in increments of \$100, \$50, \$25, respectively);
- A private dramaturgy session alongside professional playwrights; and
- The opportunity to have their play directed and performed in a staged reading by professional D.C. thespians in a Festival alongside works of professional playwrights.

Theatre professionals participating in the projects as readers, dramaturges and playwrights include Becky Peters, Artistic Director of Wandering Souls; Roberta Gasbarre, Director, Smithsonian’s Discovery Theatre; Zachary A. Dorsey and Ann Marie Gardinier Halstead, St. Lawrence University; Greg Henry, Artistic Director of the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival; Martin Blank, Artistic Director of the American Ensemble Theatre; Helen Hayes-winning Director Jennifer Nelson; Elena Hight Washington University; and Jacqueline E. Lawton, University of the District of Columbia.

Kathryn Hnatio, Education & Outreach Director at Adventure Theatre says of the project, “Bullying is an epidemic in today’s schools, and as a result, students need direction on how to navigate through and manage the issue in their daily lives. In order to give students a proactive voice, Adventure Theatre and Montgomery County Recreation decided students should tell their stories in their own words and be given an opportunity to acknowledge the issue, allowing their peers and the community at large to hear all they have to say.”

Gabriel I. Albornoz, Director of Montgomery County Recreation says of the project, “Montgomery County Recreation is committed to creating the most nurturing, conducive atmosphere for our young people to thrive and succeed in their academic, athletic and cultural pursuits. Bullying crushes their sense of creativity and freedom to be themselves. I applaud Adventure Theatre's anti-bullying new play contest and look forward to seeing the winning plays.”

"We have been greatly impressed by the inspired work of Adventure Theatre", says H.L. Ward, President & CEO of Monument Bank. "When we learned about their plan to address the growing issue of bullying, Monument Bank was eager to partner with them to help produce their Anti-Bullying New Play Contest. The entire team at Adventure Theatre has made a real difference in the lives of thousands of young people and for this we should all owe them a debt of gratitude."

A series of free workshops to interested participants will occur in December at various Montgomery County Recreation locations and at Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo Park. For a full list of requirements for play submissions and to reserve a space to attend a workshop, visit Adventure Theatre's [website](#). For more information about National Anti-Bullying Month, visit [The National Bullying Prevention Center](#).

ABOUT ADVENTURE THEATRE

Founded in 1951, Adventure Theatre is the longest-running children's theater in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. The Theatre's mission is *to cultivate new generations of audiences and artists by creating memorable theater experiences in an intimate and interactive environment*. Adventure Theatre offers a wide variety of activities including live performances of classic and contemporary classic children's stories, theater classes and camps (which complement in-school learning), workshops, birthday parties, and community engagement projects. The Theatre reaches over 50,000 children and families annually from Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and beyond. Adventure Theatre is supported in part through the generous support of the [Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County](#), the [Maryland State Arts Council](#), and the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).

ABOUT MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION

Montgomery County Recreation provides high quality, diverse, and accessible programs, services and facilities that enhance the quality of life for all ages, cultures, and abilities, including leisure activities that enhance skills, health and self esteem, activities that incorporate current leisure trends and population demographics, ways to stimulate growth in knowledge through leisure experiences, opportunities to build a sense of community, a network of services linking the community through collaboration and partnerships, safe havens where participants feel welcome, and fun for all.

ABOUT MONUMENT BANK

Monument Bank was founded by a group of business owners, experienced bankers, and entrepreneurs who have a unique understanding of the business community and the financial needs of business, professional service firms, and corporate executives. Monument Bank offers traditional full service financial products and services delivered through state-of-the-art technology. Through their commitment to exceptional service, specially designed products, and a corps of dedicated knowledgeable professionals, Monument Bank will be the commercial bank of choice for businesses, executives, and their employees who prefer convenience banking.

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