



**City of Gaithersburg CHARACTER COUNTS! Program  
Adult Heroes in OUR Community Essay Contest Winner 2015**

The person I am nominating to be “An Adult Hero in OUR Community” is St. Martin of Tours School and Parish leader, Monsignor Mark Brennan. Father Brennan is an extraordinary example of how everyone should show love in their community and exhibit all six pillars of character in his everyday life because it is a part of his personality. As the Parish Leader for one of the oldest and most diverse churches in Montgomery County, he shows citizenship because he is very involved in St. Martin’s Parish and cares for all in his community, rich and poor. Along with spreading the good news of Jesus in several languages every day he is also a counselor and confidant to the spiritually weary, an open kitchen to the hungry, and a helping hand to the outcast and homeless. These signs of love show that he cares for the many different people in Gaithersburg. Father Brennan also shows trustworthiness because people in the community depend on him to faithfully keep his promises of providing services, which he does. While doing these good deeds he always shows respect by treating every one fairly and encourages his congregation to do the same. He shows responsibility by leading the whole St. Martin’s community to help others. Father Brennan is very deserving of this award because the six pillars of Gaithersburg are a part of his character.

Benjamin Bell – Grade 8  
St. Martin of Tours School  
Principal – Andrew Piotrowski  
Teacher – Mrs. Redmond