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PRESS RELEASE

Verizon Foundation joins with the Horsham Rotary and the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office to provide \$24,000 grant for Internet Safety Initiatives in Montgomery County

Norristown, PA – February 14, 2008 – Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman, Verizon Foundation, and the Rotary Club of Horsham today announced they are joining forces to educate and protect Montgomery County's children from online predators. The District Attorney's Office is pleased to announce a \$24,000 grant from Verizon Foundation in cooperation with the Horsham Rotary.

At a press conference today, Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman will participate in the presentation of a \$24,000 grant from Verizon Foundation to the Horsham Rotary. These funds will be used as part of a two-pronged approach to protecting children from internet predators including a law enforcement component and an education component.

"This grant will allow us to put more detectives online investigating and arresting internet predators seeking our children," said Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman. "In addition to our traditional law enforcement operations investigating and prosecuting child predators, we will also use these funds to educate children and parents about the dangers of the internet and ways to keep kids safe. We want to give kids and parents the tools to prevent children from falling prey to those who seek to harm them online."

"Verizon is committed to protecting our most precious asset, our children. We are proud to provide these funds to assist in the ongoing fight against online child predators in the Montgomery County community, said Daniel J. Reavy, Director-External Affairs, Verizon Pennsylvania.

When the opportunity to apply for the Verizon grant arose, prosecutors turned to the Horsham Rotary, a community-based non-profit entity dedicated to helping children, to assist in securing the grant. "The Horsham Rotary was a vital component in this endeavor and as a result of their participation a portion of the funds will be used to provide internet safety mouse pads to children in Horsham Township," according to District Attorney Ferman.

The concept for the mouse pads originated last summer when Assistant District Attorney Todd Stephens, the head of the Sex Crimes Unit in the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, learned of a program in Illinois where corporate sponsors were enlisted to help produce and distribute internet safety mouse pads. The mouse pads feature a cartoon depicting a child "surfing" on a computer keyboard while a shark gnashing its teeth approaches. Above the cartoon are "Rules for Safer Surfing" to help children navigate the internet more safely. The logos for the Horsham Rotary and Verizon will appear as sponsors for the mouse pads.