

The Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County Honors Community Leaders for Their Work on Local Tobacco Prevention Issues

On May 11, the Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County presented their annual Tobacco Prevention Awards to local community leaders at the organization's quarterly meeting.

The Tobacco Prevention Awards are presented each year to groups or individuals who have made an exceptional contribution towards the goals of the Tobacco Free Partnership.

The City of Stuart and Martin County were both recognized for their support this in passing Proclamations for Through with Chew Week and Tobacco Free Florida Week this year.

Sandhill Cove and Martin County were recognized as a *Community Partners of the Year* for their work in creating the new, comprehensive language for their Tobacco Free Grounds and Workplace policies. The Gehring Group was also recognized for their assistance in implementing tobacco free policies at the City of Stuart and other Martin County workplaces.

Shannon Nazzal with Martin County Parks and Recreation was recognized as a *Community Partner of the Year*. As a Tobacco Free Partnership member, Nazzal has been instrumental in assisting community youth sports leagues in adopting tobacco free policies for their young athletes, coaches and spectators.

Dr. Anita Cocoves and Sharyn Krim from Martin County were recognized as *Community Partners of the Year* for their assistance in a year-long surveillance program with Counter Tools, a program designed to counteract tobacco marketing to youth at local retailers.

Awards were also given to Maureen Ryan, *Community Advocate of the Year*, and Renay Rouse, *Media Partner of the Year* for their successful efforts to promote and grow the tobacco prevention program in Martin County through earned media and word of mouth communications.

A longtime partnership member, Jim Vojcsik, executive director of the United Way of Martin County, was recognized as a *Lifetime Community Partner* in recognition of his many contributions to the tobacco prevention program. Vojcsik will be retiring this summer.

Each year, The Tobacco Free Partnership recognizes key leaders from the Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Program. This year, outstanding leaders that were recognized included Carlos Garcia from South Fork High School, Quincy Clark from Murray Middle School and Amy Hiltibidal from Stuart Middle School.

Yadira Lopez-Morales, a student at Anderson Middle School, was named **2016 SWAT Youth of the Year**. Lopez-Morales was a key leader at her school's club, spearheading several club projects and encouraging and motivating her peers at Anderson Middle School.

Heather Greenwood, the SWAT Advisor from Stuart Middle School, was named **2016 SWAT Advisor of the Year**. Ms. Greenwood has one of the most active Middle School SWAT Clubs in Martin County. Her students promote several anti-tobacco events and observances campus wide throughout the year, and several of her students created an anti-tobacco public service announcement that took Second Place in a local [Radio PSA Contest](#) and First Place in the Video PSA Contest.

The Murray Middle School SWAT Club, led by Ms. Cynthia Bishop, was named the **2016 SWAT Club of the Year**. Their Club participated in outreach efforts throughout Martin County this year, walking in the Hobe Sound Christmas Parade and working with local elementary school students, in addition to raising awareness of anti-tobacco social norms among Murray Middle School students with several educational projects throughout their campus.

The work of the Tobacco Free Partnership would not be possible without the support and the effort of all of its members. This year's award winners once again demonstrated a special commitment to tobacco prevention that is continuing to make a positive difference in Martin County.

For more information on the work of the Tobacco Free Partnership, or to become a member, contact Kim Nash at knash@quitdoc.com, or visit tfp-martin.org.