

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

On May 18, 2017 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.

Sandhill Cove was recognized for their successful implementation of tobacco free workplace and residency policy. They adopted a tobacco free grounds policy in early 2017 and have seen a positive response from both their residents and employees.

Shannon Nazzal was recognized for her efforts in aiding youth sports leagues throughout Martin County in their adoption of tobacco free policies. As a result, many leagues in the county voluntarily went tobacco free, avoiding exposure to secondhand smoke for their young athletes.

Jennifer Ahern of Children's Services Council was recognized for her advocacy efforts to reduce tobacco marketing at the point of sale. Her work helped to counteract the efforts of the tobacco industry to target youth in Martin County with advertisements and product placement.

Each year, the QuitDoc Foundation Partners with WSTU-AM for a tobacco prevention PSA Contest. Mike Thomas of WSTU-AM was awarded *Media Partner of the Year* for his hard work and dedication to the success of the annual contest.

Paul Nicoletti, City Manager at the City of Stuart, was recognized with a *Partner of the Year* award upon the occasion of his retirement for his countless efforts to strengthen tobacco free social norms at the City of Stuart and his work on policies, such as the City of Stuart's ordinance banning electronic cigarettes from public indoor spaces.

Each year, The Tobacco Free Partnership recognizes key leaders from the Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Program. This year, *Outstanding Youth of the Year* awards were presented to Rose Rooney of Stuart Middle School, Elliott Steward of Murray Middle School, Ignacio Valdez of Martin County High School, Dominique Jadusingh of South Fork High School, Mairead Brady of Jensen Beach High School, Leah Hebden of the YMCA and Aristo Onassis of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County.

Michael Williams, the SWAT Advisor from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County, was named the *SWAT Advisor of the Year*. Williams has one of the most active SWAT Clubs in Martin County, and has traveled with his clubs to SWAT trainings throughout the state.

Murray Middle School and Stuart Middle School tied for this year's *SWAT Club of the Year*. Both clubs participated in outreach efforts throughout Martin County this year, participating in events like the Hobe Sound Christmas Parade and the Martin County Fair, in addition to raising awareness of anti-tobacco social norms among middle school students with several educational projects throughout each 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](mailto:knash@quitdoc.com), or visit [tfp-martin.org](http://tfp-martin.org).