



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
&
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

For Immediate Release

March 2, 2011

News media calls to Vic Reato: Media Services Manager at (815)727-5088.

Agency Website: www.willcountyhealth.org

Twitter: WillCoHealth

HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO HOST 4TH ANNUAL TAR WARS POSTER CONTEST

JOLIET — During the 2010-2011 academic year, 29 Will County elementary schools have participated in a Will County Health Department tobacco prevention program called Tar Wars.

The Tar Wars initiative is a free program for 4th and 5th grade students developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians. The program is designed to teach kids about the short-term, image-based consequences of tobacco use, the costs associated with using tobacco products, and the varying advertising techniques used by the tobacco industry to market products to youth.

A Tar Wars curriculum consists of a pre-activity exercise, an hour-long classroom presentation, and a follow-up poster contest. To help reinforce the Tar Wars message, poster contests are conducted at the local, state and national level.

Channahon's Derek Malone won the 2010 Will County poster contest. A 5th grade student from Three Rivers School, Malone won a digital camera for submitting the winning entry. Will County Executive Larry Walsh and 65 Will County Health Department employees selected Malone's poster from more than 50 eligible entries.

Tar Wars programming was implemented in Will County schools during 2007. Since then, Tobacco Control & Prevention health educators, and Lewis University nursing students, have reached more than 8,000 students during 219 presentations at 44 local schools.

The 2011 Will County Tar Wars Poster Contest is set for March 24, in the Will County Health Department Community Room (501 Ella Avenue), in Joliet. Posters will be judged on the basis of positive message content, creativity, originality, and artistic ability. All posters meeting eligibility requirements will be displayed for judging between 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Winners will be announced April 4.

All are welcome to participate in the judging. Five students and their winning submissions will advance to the state Tar Wars Poster Contest in April.

For more information about the Will County Tar Wars Poster Contest, email Jennifer Blair (jblair@willcountyhealth.org), or telephone 815-774-7312. For general information about the Tar Wars initiative, visit www.tarwars.org.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Main Office
501 Ella Avenue
Joliet, IL 60433
Ph 815.727.8480
Fx 815.727.8484

Community Health Center
1106 Neal Avenue
Joliet, IL 60433
Ph 815.727.8670
Fx 815.727.8852

Eastern Branch Office
44 Towncenter
University Park, IL 60466
Ph 815.727.8803
Ph 708.534.0800
Fx 708.534.3455

Northern Branch Office
323 Quadrangle Dr.
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
Ph 630.679.7000
Fx 630.679.7015