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Champaign-Urbana Public Health District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Grade School Children Take a Stand Against Tobacco Use and Win Anti-Tobacco Poster Contest

*Champaign-Urbana Public Health District REALITY Illinois Program
Announces Winners of Annual Contest*

Champaign, IL – Local grade school children received prizes for the winning entries in the 2009 REALITY Illinois poster contest. Awards for students grades Kindergarten – Fifth were chosen from 200 entries by REALITY Illinois students at JW Eater High School on April 6th. All entries were on display at the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD) for the Kick Butts Day Health Fair on March 28, 2009.

Champaign-Urbana grade school children recently participated in an annual anti-tobacco workshop provided by the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD). Sponsored by Reality Illinois, this workshop is designed to educate children on the dangers of tobacco use, and provide them with the tools necessary to make the best possible decisions in the future regarding tobacco use. At the end of the workshop, participants were encouraged to create posters that best represented their thoughts on tobacco use, and the messages that they would like their peers to know when considering the use of tobacco products.

“Over 60,000 children in Illinois under the age of 18 become new daily tobacco users each year,” said Trisha Gillespie, Health Educator for CUPHD, “It is estimated that one third of those will become regular tobacco users as adults, and suffer health problems related to tobacco use in the future. It is imperative that young children are presented with tobacco information before they are tempted to try a tobacco product.”

Winners of the REALITY Illinois 2009 Poster Contest are:

KINDERGARTEN – SECOND GRADE -

- **1st Place:** Will Delaney, 1st Grade, Fisher Elementary, \$100 worth of gift cards & their poster on a t-shirt for their entire class.
- **2nd Place:** Kiley Chancellor, 2nd Grade, Unity West, \$50 worth of gift cards
- **3rd Place:** Sandy Howe, 2nd Grade, Ludlow Grade School, \$25 in gift cards

THIRD GRADE – FIFTH GRADE -

- **1st Place:** Gavin Schrader, 5th Grade, Dr. Howard Elementary, \$100 worth of gift cards & their poster on a t-shirt for their entire class.
- **2nd Place:** Jack McDonald, 4th Grade, Carrie Busey Elementary, \$50 worth of gift cards
- **3rd Place:** Sophia Wallis, 5th Grade, Dr. Howard Elementary, \$25 in gift cards

REALITY Illinois is an anti-tobacco movement created by and for Illinois teens. With help from the Illinois Department of Public Health and local health departments, REALITY Illinois encourages teens to take a stand against tobacco by educating their peers and communities about the adverse health effects and deceptive marketing practices of tobacco companies. The teens also work to make their communities tobacco-free and communicate with decision makers on issues related to tobacco prevention and control.

The REALITY Illinois program was launched in the summer of 2002. Local chapters form a teen advisory panel to plan activities and events that range from conducting peer-to-peer tobacco prevention education to membership recruitment and advocacy projects.

For more information about the REALITY Illinois program at CUPHD or other CUPHD programs and services, please call 217-352-7961 or visit CUPHD on the web at www.c-uphd.org .

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