

OAFP/F Announces Ohio Tar Wars® Poster Contest Winner

Joshua Lewis, a fifth-grade student from Central Elementary School in Cambridge, Ohio, is the 2009 Ohio Tar Wars® poster contest winner.

The Ohio Tar Wars® program is a part of Ohio Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (OAFP/F) programs and OAFP/F sponsors the statewide poster contest.

Mr. Lewis' poster was selected as Ohio's winner during the Tar Wars® poster contest judging held May 2 at the OAFP/F office in Columbus, Ohio. Tar Wars® poster contest judges were OAFP/F board trustees Drs. Gary LeRoy and Sarah Sams and The Ohio State University medical student Ashley Holland.

Mr. Lewis heard the Tar Wars® message in March during a classroom presentation by Becky Wheeler, certified cancer registrar, Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center, Cambridge, Ohio.

“Presenting the Tar Wars® educational program in our local schools is the community education highlight for the cancer program at Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center. It is exciting to see the progress we are making in helping our students make positive choices in life and staying tobacco free is certainly one of the huge life choices kids have to make. Having presented this program for the past six years, I see the progress in students grasping the benefits of being tobacco free – not only for themselves but all of us. I am happy to be a part of this wonderful program,” said Ms. Wheeler.

OAFP/F will offer Mr. Lewis a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the annual Tar Wars® national poster contest and awards ceremony, sponsored by American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). This year's national conference will be held Monday-Tuesday, July 13-14, at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. While in Washington, D.C., Mr. Lewis will have the opportunity to visit Capitol sights as well as schedule Capitol Hill visits to take the Tar Wars® tobacco-free message to his congressional leaders.

Thousands of family physicians and healthcare workers across the country present Tar Wars® programs to fourth- and fifth-graders in their local schools every year. This national initiative of AAFP is designed to teach kids about the short-term, image-based consequences of tobacco use, the costs associated with using tobacco products and the advertising techniques used by the tobacco industry to market its products to youth. The follow-up poster contest is conducted at the local, state and national levels to reinforce the Tar Wars® message.

Many thanks to every OAFP member and volunteer who made a Tar Wars® presentation this year! If you would like to become a Tar Wars® presenter or to get more information for your school about this program, please contact Tar Wars® State Coordinator Dr. Greg Parranto by calling 419.234.5615 or visit the Tar Wars® Web site at <http://www.tarwars.org> for more information.