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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Ohio Student Recognized for Achievement in National Tar Wars Poster Contest**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Chloe Elliott, a fifth-grade student from North Elementary School in Cambridge, Ohio, received national recognition during the 2011 Tar Wars® national poster contest and awards ceremony Tues., July 12, during the Tar Wars National Conference held July 12-13, in Washington, DC, and sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Elliott received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (OAFP/F) to attend the national poster contest. Elliott's poster received special recognition in the national competition that included thirty-eight state poster contest winners.

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

While in Washington, Elliott had the opportunity to voice her opinions about tobacco use and tobacco legislation when she visited the Capitol Hill offices of Congressional District 18 Rep. Bob Gibbs on Wed., July 13.

Tar Wars is a tobacco-free education program administered by the American Academy of Family Physicians that increases fourth- and fifth-grade students' awareness of attitudes about tobacco use and the effects of tobacco on the body. Since it was established in 1988, Tar Wars has reached more than 8 million children with its tobacco-free message.

The Tar Wars program culminates with its annual poster contest, which encourages children to create posters that emphasize the positive aspects of not using tobacco.

Alana McGuinness, a fifth-grader from Bristol, R.I., was named the 2011 Tar Wars national poster contest winner Tues., July 12, at a ceremony during the Tar Wars National Conference in Washington, D.C. As the national poster contest winner, Alana receives a family trip worth up to \$2,000.

A national video contest was added to the Tar Wars program this year in order to allow students another medium for sharing positive messages about being tobacco-free. Blaire McCarthy, a fifth-grader from St. Petersburg, Fla., was named the winner of the inaugural video competition. As winner of the national video contest, Blaire was presented with a \$500 gift card and a \$500 prize will be awarded to her school.

In addition to Alana and Blaire, three runners-up, six honorable mentions and the state-level poster contest winners were recognized at the awards ceremony. The 30 state poster contest winners in attendance received a prize packet and a special gift.

**Runners-up:**

Second place: Brooklyn Driver — Lafayette, Tenn.  
Third place: Hady Hernandez — Houston, Texas  
Fourth place: Hayden Simmons — Ranburne, Ala.

**Honorable Mentions:**

Fifth place: Rachel Whitlach — St. Petersburg, Fla.  
Sixth place: Madelyn Noyes — Springfield, Ill.  
Seventh place: Rachel Colligan — Parkville, Mo.  
Eighth place: Meghan Johnson — Westfield, N.J.  
Ninth place: Kelli Taylor — Overt, Miss.  
Tenth place: Shayla French — Plymouth, Mich.

The winning posters were chosen from 38 entries, all of which were winners of state-level Tar Wars poster contests. Posters were judged on their artistry, creativity, originality and their ability to communicate a clear and positive message about being tobacco-free.

Tar Wars is the only youth tobacco education program offered at this time by a medical specialty organization in the United States.

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, Greg Parranto, MD, at 419/234-5615 or visit the [Tar Wars® Web site](#) for more information.

*The mission of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, as the philanthropic arm of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, is to improve and increase access to quality healthcare for all Ohioans by generating student interest in the family medicine specialty. For more information, visit [www.oafpfoundation.org](http://www.oafpfoundation.org)*

*The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians is a statewide professional association of more than 4,000 members, including practicing physicians, family medicine residents and medical students. The scope of family medicine encompasses all ages, both sexes and every disease entity. Family physicians provide comprehensive, continuing care to all members of the family. For more information, visit [www.ohioafp.org](http://www.ohioafp.org).*

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For a photo of Elliott's poster contact Julie Mask at OAFP Foundation. To interview Elliott, please contact parent – Scott or Lori Elliott (740/432-89344). For a photo of Elliott, or to interview Tar Wars® presenter Jen Fannin, please contact Ms. Fannin (740/439-8156) Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center (Cambridge).