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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Statewide Family Physicians Foundation Announces Ohio Tar Wars® Poster Winner**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Chloe Elliott, a fifth-grade student from North Elementary School in Cambridge, Ohio, is the 2011 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 annual statewide poster contest.

Miss Elliott's poster was selected as Ohio's winner during the Tar Wars® poster contest judging held Saturday, April 9, at the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (OAFP/F) office in Columbus, Ohio. Tar Wars® poster contest judges were OAFP/F trustees: Michelle Boose, M.D., (Toledo); and Gary LeRoy, M.D., F.A.A.F.P. (Dayton); and, Ohio Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) board member: Brian Bachelder, M.D., F.A.A.F.P.

Posters were judged on their artistry, creativity, originality and their ability to communicate a clear and positive message about being tobacco-free.

**Ohio Tar Wars® poster contest runners-up:**

Second place: Kayleigh Hahn, Academy of St. Adalbert, Berea

Third place: Paige Ferguson, Caldwell Elementary, Caldwell

Fourth place: Destiny Berry, Brook Elementary, Byesville

Elliott heard the Tar Wars® message during a classroom presentation by Becky Wheeler, Certified Cancer Registrar, Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center in Cambridge. "Having presented the Tar Wars® educational program in our local schools for the past 8 years, it is exciting to 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 Wheeler.

OAFP/F will offer Elliott a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the annual Tar Wars® national poster contest and awards ceremony, sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). This year's national conference will be held July 12-13, at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. While in Washington, Elliott 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 health care 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.

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 Becky Wheeler, please contact Ms. Wheeler (740/439-8156) Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center (Cambridge).