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Media contact: Dianne Shipley, 941-861-2852; cell 941-302-1058;
Dianne_Shipley@doh.state.fl.us

Program contact: Diane Ramseyer, 941-650-4856;
Diane_Ramseyer@doh.state.fl.us

North Port Drug-Free Youth anniversary celebration will feature youth activities and sharing of views via Skype

The North Port Community Health Action Team (CHAT) will host youth-oriented activities for North Port Drug-Free Youth, also known as North Port D-Fy, to celebrate the more than 1,000 youths who have taken a pledge to remain drug-free since the program's inception two years ago.

The activities marking the two-year anniversary of North Port D-Fy will include competitions and games such as dodge ball and bean toss, as well as food and prizes. The event will take place from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, at the Morgan Center, 6207 West Price Blvd., North Port.

D-Fy and community members also will have the opportunity to share their views about remaining drug-free via Skype from 6-7:30 p.m. as part of a WEDU TV Town Hall meeting that will take place at Pinellas Park High School in Pinellas Park, Fla. The Town Hall meeting, "Outcomes Count," will focus on model projects that address substance abuse prevention. A key sponsor is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Town Hall meeting will air at 9 p.m. Thursday, April 19, on WEDU, a west central Florida PBS television station, on Channel 3.

Community members are invited to sign the North Port D-Fy's two-year anniversary banner, which will be displayed at presentations and other related events.

North Port Drug-Free Youth is an organization of peers – middle and high school students --- who share the commitment to make positive choices and live a healthy, drug-free life. Students validate their commitment through an initial and random drug screening. Once deemed eligible, members receive a North Port D-Fy card that gives them the opportunity to receive local discounts and attend special North Port D-Fy events. According to the North Port Drug-Free Youth website, there also will be opportunities to receive scholarships and internships in the future.

“The level of interest and participation in the North Port D-Fy has been far beyond anyone’s expectations. Currently, this model project is being expanded into the Venice and North Sarasota communities,” said CHAT Coordinator Diane Ramseyer.

For more information, visit the North Port D-Fy website at <http://www.npd-fy.com/> or the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) website at www.chip4health.org, or call Diane Ramseyer at 941-650-4856.

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