

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 15, 2006

## **ASTHMA COALITION NAMES ASTHMA CHAMPIONS FOR 2005**

The Cleveland County Asthma Coalition named eight “Asthma Champions” at its meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2006.

The individuals named include:

- **Nancy Abasiekong**, Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Services, Cleveland County Cooperative Extension, is an instructor for the English and Hispanic Asthma Basics Classes and the *No Wheeze* Asthma Camp. Nancy acted as the coordinator of the Tools for Schools/ Open Airways program that was provided for Cleveland County Schools in 2004; the program will be repeated during the 2006-2007 school year. Nancy provides comprehensive information about indoor and outdoor triggers because with recognition and management, individuals with asthma can minimize their symptoms.
- **Artie Hubbard**, Senior Director of Family Programs at the Dover Foundation Family YMCA, was instrumental in the launch of the first **No Wheeze** Asthma Camp, July 2005. Thanks to Artie, camp week and the camp cook-out, on the hottest day of the year, were a great success! Artie also leads the coordination of the Coaches Clip Board Project to be launched this summer.

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- **Lynn Bridges**, Co-chair of the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition, is also a parent of a child with asthma and a registered nurse at the Cleveland County Health Department. Lynn is a member of the Children’s Asthma Basic Class Team. She is responsible for the development of the story board to be exhibited at the NC Asthma Summit and will represent the coalition at that event. Lynn has also spearheaded the coalition’s first major fundraising event.
- **Matilda Hamrick**, a registered nurse at the Cleveland County Health Department, has provided many volunteer hours to the coalition. She was instrumental in the development of the first Asthma Coalition story board that was presented at the CHEST Conference in Seattle in 2004.
- **The Children’s Asthma Basic Class Team: Susan Borders**, AccessCare Case Manager, **Jamarica Jones**, RN, Cleveland County Health Department, **Lynn Bridges**, RN, Cleveland County Health Department, and **Sheila Leak**, Shelby Children’s Clinic have led over 30 classes for children. Helping children differentiate between triggers and symptoms through the use of games and interactive play, kids from 5-12 years have been empowered to manage their asthma, and enlighten those around them. They know: “You can control your asthma...do not let your asthma control you! “
- **Shelby Wal-Mart Super Center** has been a consistent supporter of the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition Asthma Expos. Wal-Mart Super Center will be the location for the Hispanic Asthma Basics Class scheduled for May. The Cleveland County Asthma Coalition appreciates the flexibility and support of Johnny Wise and his staff. They will be supporting the coalition at **Healthy Kids’ Day/Asthma Expo** at the Dover Foundation Family YMCA on April 22 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

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The Cleveland County Asthma Coalition was founded in spring 2002 to facilitate greater understanding of asthma and its effects on individuals and families. The coalition is composed of 35 individuals representing various health services as well as parents and individuals who are diagnosed with asthma. Asthma Coalition meetings are held in the Cleveland County Health Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room on the fourth Wednesday of each month at noon. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the coalition or attending the meetings should call 704-484-5185.

The Cleveland County Asthma Coalition has been recognized by the North Carolina Asthma Alliance as one of the busiest and most effective asthma coalitions in the state. CCAC will present its successes and projects to the North Carolina Asthma Summit, March 21, 2006 in Raleigh.

Some of the services offered by the coalition include Asthma Basics Classes (offered the third Thursday of most months at the Dover Foundation Family YMCA), an Asthma Resource Telephone Hotline (704-484-5195), the Emergency Nebulizer Loaner Program managed by Medical Arts Pharmacy, and the *No Wheeze* Asthma Camp held at the Dover Foundation Family YMCA the third week in July.

For information about the *No Wheeze* Asthma Camp, call 704-484-9622. For information about the asthma education classes, call 704-484-5195.

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For additional information, please contact Pam Ellwood, Co-Chair, Cleveland County Asthma Coalition at 704-484-5182 or Anne Short, Alliance for Health, 704-484-5112.