



Just Saying No

Florida ranks high in teaching kids about the dangers of tobacco

BY ANNA RABHAN

In a recent annual report on states' funding of tobacco prevention programs, Florida ranked 13th in protecting kids from tobacco. The study, released by a coalition of health and wellness organizations including the American Heart Association and the **Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids**, also found that Florida spends \$62.3 million a year on tobacco cessation and prevention programs; no small number, but tobacco companies spend on average \$734.2 million a year to market their products in the Sunshine State.

The Tobacco-Free Jacksonville Coalition, assisted by the Duval County Health Department and the American Lung Association, sponsors Students Working Against

Tobacco (SWAT), a group of students who have been instrumental to the Coalition's efforts. Stephen McCloskey, tobacco prevention program manager for DCHD, says that SWAT has concentrated recently on policy to restrict the sale of candy-flavored tobacco products. "The kids are angry about it," says McCloskey, "so they've been going to City Council meetings, and they've been successful in getting some product placement ordinances as well as resolutions."

McCloskey urges concerned parents to encourage their kids to join existing SWAT chapters, organize their own chapter or to join the national SWAT group. More info at tobaccofreejacksonville.org. *



Breaking the Silence: The Monique Burr Foundation for Children has reached thousands of graders in Florida through its **Speak Up Be Safe** (SUBS) safety and child abuse prevention program. Five Duval County schools implemented phases of the program during the 2010-11 school year. The five skills taught to children during the program include: "It's my body!" "Ask an adult if I am safe," "It's not my fault," and "It's never my fault!" For more visit moniqueburrfoundation.org. * BY JESSICA

HIGH EDUCATION

Many First Coast schools provide an education

BY ANNA RABHAN

many parents remember the excitement of a child's first day of school. The opportunity to learn and develop is a need, and research confirms the importance of the Center on Philanthropy's *The Growth of Youth Philanthropy* study, which shows that children who participate in service learning programs perform better academically in reading, thinking and writing skills. While the methods of teaching philanthropy differ, area private and parochial schools, such as Discovery Montessori in Jacksonville and its students receive a

Discovery Montessori, a private school in Jacksonville Beach, combines direct learning and an experiential approach.

An Episcopal student visits Sancti Spiritus



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