



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Scott Berry, Executive Director
Martin County Healthy Start Coalition
(772) 463-2888

Marilyn Leeds joins cast of Dancing with the Martin Stars

Tickets on sale for the 2nd annual event held on Sept. 22 to raise funds for Martin County Healthy Start

Stuart, FL (August 24, 2012) – *Dancing with the Martin Stars* welcomed a new addition to the cast—Marilyn Leeds of Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Systems. Leeds will be putting her best foot forward in an effort to raise funds and awareness for the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition which offers support and education to pregnant women and infants throughout Martin County.

The star-studded event will be held on September 22, 7 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre in downtown Stuart. Tickets for the event start at \$35 and can be purchased at www.lyrictheatre.com or at the Lyric Theatre box office.

As the newest addition to the cast, Leeds has been busy learning the tricky steps of the Spanish dance, the Paso Doble, but she understands that her hard work is benefitting a great cause.

“From the risk screening services to the new parent education classes, Healthy Start is such an important part of our community. I’m not sure what expectant mothers and new moms would do without those services,” says Leeds. She hopes that dancing in the event will lead to greater awareness about Healthy Start and the critical role it serves in the region.

“Marilyn is a welcomed addition to our impressive cast,” Martin County Healthy Start Executive Director Scott Berry said. “Our organization is so grateful to both the dancers and instructors who have made a commitment of their time and energy to benefit our mission of ensuring that every baby is born healthy.”

The rest of the local celebrity cast, including Eve Samples, Jade Smith, Ed Lippisch and Tom Hall have been practicing alongside some of the best professional dancers in Martin County several times a week in preparation for the competition. Learning ballroom dance routines from the Argentine tango to western swing has been keeping the cast on their toes as they attempt to impress judges and earn the coveted mirror ball trophy.

In addition to learning their dance routines, the competitors are also busy trying to reach their fundraising goals. The dancer with the combined highest fundraising amount and overall dance score will be crowned the winner. To support your favorite dancer and the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition, visit <http://www.mchealthystart.org/martinstars>.

Dancing with the Martin Stars
Saturday, September 22, 6 p.m.
Lyric Theatre
59 S.W. Flagler Avenue
Stuart, FL 34994

Tickets can be purchased at www.lyrictheatre.com or at box office

Visit <http://www.mchealthystart.org/martinstars> to donate to your favorite dancer

Suggested photo caption: Marilyn Leeds of Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Systems and her dance instructor Steve Wilkie of Fred Astaire Dance Studio will compete against five other local celebrities and their instructors at *Dancing with the Martin Stars* on September 22.

About Martin County Healthy Start Coalition

Martin County Healthy Start Coalition is a community-based 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that offers support and education to pregnant women and infants. Prenatal and infant health screenings, childbirth education, counseling services, and parenting education classes are

available to families to ensure that all babies are born healthy. All information provided to Healthy Start is kept confidential. Eligibility for services is based on the presence of risk to the health of the mother or infant, not on income level.

Connect with Martin County Healthy Start on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MCHHealthyStart. For more information, call 772-463-2888 or visit <http://www.mchealthystart.org>.

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