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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ed Lippisch recognized for raising more than \$12K for Martin County Healthy Start Coalition

Stuart, FL – The curtain has closed for this year's *Dancing with the Martin Stars*, but one celebrity dancer is still enjoying his time in the spotlight.

Dr. Ed Lippisch of Lippisch and Engebretsen Oral Surgery and Dental Implants participated in the 2012 *Dancing with the Martin Stars* as a celebrity dancer and helped raise more than \$12,000 for the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition. To express their gratitude and recognize him for his hard work, the nonprofit organization awarded Lippisch with the Fundraising Runner-up mirror ball trophy.

The 2nd annual *Dancing with the Martin Stars* event netted more than \$45,000 to help pay for programs offered by the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition such as ultrasounds, lab testing and services for mothers dealing with high risk pregnancies.

Lippisch and his professional dance partner, Megan Acosta of Fred Astaire Dance Studio, dropped jaws and wowed the crowd of over 400 people at the Lyric Theatre with their lively version of the samba. The duos fancy footwork helped earn them a score of 26 out of 30 points.

“Initially I thought we’d practice once a week and that would be enough, but I was clearly mistaken” says Lippisch. In the weeks leading up to the event he and Acosta practiced three days a week and often had double sessions to get the choreography perfected.

“It was definitely a lot of work but so well worth it. I’m happy that I could be a part of such a fun, amazing event and raise money for a great cause.”

Other stars that took the stage this year were: Jade Smith of Island Party Rentals; Marilyn Leeds of Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Systems; Eve Samples of Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers and Tom Hall from Seacoast National Bank.

After scoring the highest overall dance score and combining that with her fundraising efforts, Scripps Newspaper Columnist, Eve Samples, and her partner Bob Murray, were crowned as the overall winners of the night.

Tom Hall, Executive Vice President at Seacoast National Bank, and Ed Lippisch were the two highest fundraisers of the night bringing in more than \$28,000 combined.

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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Suggested Photo Caption: Martin County Healthy Start Coalition Executive Director, Scott Berry, presents Ed Lippisch with the Fundraising Runner-up mirror ball trophy.