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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Do you have what it takes to be part of Dancing with the Martin Stars?

“Open Call” applications now being accepted for Martin County Healthy Start’s signature fundraiser performance

Stuart, FL – Have you ever daydreamed about being on a stage, dancing the Tango or the Charleston? Think you have what it takes to perform in front of a packed house at the Lyric Theatre? Martin County Healthy Start has the fun and difficult task of selecting only eight enthusiastic community members who will dance their hearts out for a good cause as part of the organization’s third annual *Dancing with the Martin Stars*. The star-studded event is set for the evening of September 28, 2013 at the historic Lyric Theatre in downtown Stuart.

After the phenomenal success of the first two years of the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition’s *Dancing with the Martin Stars*, the organization is adding a new “twist” to the way they recruit dancers. A simple application form now makes it easy for anyone interested in being a star dancer to be considered.

“If you are passionate about ensuring that all babies are born healthy in our community, and think you have the talent and personality to be a dancer, we encourage you to fill out the application and help us raise funds and put on a fantastic show,” said Scott Berry, Executive Director of the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition.

This signature fundraiser for Martin County Healthy Start pairs well known members of the community with professional dance instructors to raise funds while competing to be the winner of the event and receive the coveted mirror ball trophy. Each cast member is paired with a professional dance instructor who will train with them on their chosen dance routine, and then perform with their dance partner in front of a sold out crowd at the Lyric Theatre.

Applications can be found online at www.mchealthystart.org/martinstars. There is no fee to submit an application and **the deadline for submission is March 15, 2013**. Applicants are encouraged to be creative by submitting photos, videos, testimonials, or other means of expressing their level of enthusiasm about being a dancer in the event.

Highlights from 2012 Dancing with the Martin Stars

Last year, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspaper Columnist Eve Samples won best overall with her flawless footwork in the Argentine Tango and Tom Hall with Seacoast Bank won overall fundraiser after raising more than \$16,000.

Dr. Ed Lippisch of Lippisch and Engebretsen Oral Surgery and Dental Implants impressed the crowd with the Samba and helped raise more than \$12,000. “While it was definitely a big commitment of time, it was so worth it! It was very rewarding to be part of such a fun, well produced event while raising money for a really important purpose,” said Lippisch.

In 2012, the event raised more than \$45,000 and brought in a crowd of more than 400 people who became better connected to the mission of Martin County Healthy Start through the event. One hundred percent of the funds raised were used to pay for services and programs offered by Healthy Start such as prenatal care, ultrasounds, lab testing and specialized medical care for high-risk mothers. For more information, contact Aubrey Jones at 772-463-2888 x144 or ajones@mchealthystart.org.

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