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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Martin County Healthy Start surprises local celebrities selected for Dancing with the Martin Stars

Stuart, FL – After two successful years of the *Dancing with the Martin Stars* fundraising event, **Martin County Healthy Start** wanted to make an even bigger splash with the announcement of the dancers who were chosen for this year’s event. Each of the eight lucky community “stars” were notified through a surprise announcement. From interrupting a staff meeting at a law firm to popping in unannounced at a favorite local lunch spot to tracking down an unsuspecting star in the middle of her gym workout, these “friendly ambushes,” orchestrated with help from their friends, family and co-workers were well received.

Female star dancers selected for this years cast are Rosalind Neilen, owner of Rosalind’s Fitness Studios dancing with Kevin Marone; Leslie Haviland-Smith, Associate Director of Student Services at Keiser University dancing with Travis Scott; Community volunteer Eileen Morris dancing with Craig Galvin and Wendy Hudson, representing Seacoast National Bank dancing with Lukas Klotzsche.

Male stars include Kenneth Norman, shareholder at McCarthy, Summers, Bobko, Wood, Norman, Bass & Melby dancing with Emily Powers; Patrick Murray Extended Day Coordinator for the Martin County School District dancing with Thany Lim; Michael Flaugh of Michael Flaugh, Landscape Architect P.L. dancing with Michelle Derosa; and Chad Hastings, attorney with Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith dancing with Valorie Pari.

“I’m really excited to join the cast this year,” said star dancer Chad Hastings. “My wife has always been the dancer in the family so this will give me an opportunity to improve my own dance skills while raising money for a great organization.”

More than 20 applications were received from Martin County citizens interested in showcasing their dance moves for this year's *Dancing with the Martin Stars*. Star dancers will be hard at work over the next few months learning the footwork to dances such as the Samba, Swing and the Tango under the instruction of local professional dancers.

“As a former board member for Healthy Start I understand the importance of the services they provide so when the opportunity arose, I was quick to submit my application for this event,” said Rosalind Neilen. “I’m also turning 60 this year and I see this as a great way to start my ‘new year’ with a challenge!”

In addition to learning difficult choreography, dancers will also be challenged with raising funds for the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition. In 2012, the dance competition raised more than \$45,000 which was used to pay for services and programs for pregnant women and families with newborns.

The third annual *Dancing with the Martin Stars* event will take place on Saturday, September 28, 2013 at the historic Lyric Theatre in downtown Stuart. Tickets start at \$45. For more information, contact Aubrey Campbell at 772-463-2888 x144 or acampbell@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/MCHealthyStart. For more information call 772-463-2888 or visit www.mchealthystart.org.

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Suggested Photo Caption: Michael Flaugh received his “friendly ambush” while at lunch with Dancing with the Martin Stars alums including Jade Smith, Ed Lippisch and 2013 overall winner Eve Samples. From left to right: Jade Smith, Jane Hallick, Ed Lippisch, Jenny Flaugh, Michael Flaugh, Scott Berry and Eve Samples.