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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Open Call” applications now being accepted to compete in 5th Annual *Dancing with the Martin Stars*

Martin County Healthy Start Coalition’s signature fundraiser

Stuart, FL – If you’ve ever imagined yourself center stage dancing up a storm in front of a live audience, here’s your chance to fulfill that dream – and help babies in Martin County in the process! Martin County Healthy Start Coalition (Healthy Start) created the successful ***Dancing with the Martin Stars*** event four years ago, and since then, nearly \$325,000 has been raised to ensure all babies in Martin County are born healthy. Key to the event’s notable success are the community participants who are courageous enough to slip on their dancing shoes and compete in the star-studded event which will take place on September 12, 2015 at the Lyric Theatre in Stuart.

This signature fundraiser for Healthy Start pairs well-known members of the community with professional dance instructors who train with them on a dance routine that will be performed in front of a sold-out crowd at the Lyric Theatre. The winner of the dance competition is determined through a combination of performance and fundraising ability.

“If you have the talent and charisma to be on stage as one of our star dancers and believe that every baby in Martin County should be born healthy, we hope you will apply to join the cast of ***Dancing with the Martin Stars***,” said Scott Berry, Executive Director of Healthy Start.

A simple application form is available on the Healthy Start website at mchealthystart.org and there is no fee to submit the application. Applicants are encouraged to be creative by submitting photos, videos, testimonials, or other means of expressing their level of enthusiasm about being a star dancer in the event. **The deadline for submission is March 30, 2015.**

To download the application, visit www.mchealthystart.org or for more information, call 772-463-2888.

Highlights from 2014 *Dancing with the Martin Stars*

In 2014, a sold out crowd at StarStruck Theatre was entertained by six talented dance duos that collectively raised nearly \$92,000 to benefit the women and newborns in the community served by Healthy Start. Rachel Terlizzi, with her partner Bob Murray, were the overall winners last year for being the top fundraiser (raising more than \$25,000) as well as achieving a perfect score of 30 from the judges. They performed a sizzling version of the Argentine Tango. Another trophy was awarded to Tara Zweben and her partner, Travis Scott, for also receiving a perfect dance score of 30 points from the judging panel.

One hundred percent of the funds raised through ***Dancing with the Martin Stars*** 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.

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.

Suggested Photo Caption: Rachel Terlizzi, with her partner Bob Murray was the grand prize winner of the 2014 ***Dancing with the Martin Stars***.