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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Martin County Healthy Start Coalition's Fourth Annual Dancing with the Martin Stars raises nearly \$92,000 to benefit women and newborns in Martin County**

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STUART, Fla. – Each year, the bar is raised on some aspect of the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition's annual Dancing with the Martin Stars. This year was no exception. A sold out crowd at StarStruck Theatre was entertained by six of the most talented dance duos to date.

Collectively they raised nearly \$92,000 - a remarkable fundraising achievement that benefits the women and newborns in the community served by Healthy Start.

Rachel Terlizzi, with her partner Bob Murray, were the overall winners and received the coveted mirror ball trophy 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.

"I was born and raised in Martin County and the opportunity to give back to mothers and babies in our community is truly an honor," Terlizzi said. "I have two beautiful boys of my own, Bradley and Evan, so being able to help mothers in need is close to my heart."

Two of the event's five all-time top fundraisers were part of this year's event — Terlizzi and Kenan Siegel who raised more than \$21,000. Another trophy was awarded to Tara Zweben and her partner, Travis Scott, for also receiving a perfect dance score of 30 points from the three esteemed judges.

The quality of this year's production set a new standard, with more audience engagement and the addition of a live streaming opportunity for the overflow crowd who could not fit into the main theatre at StarStruck.

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“The event raised the equivalent of the cost of prenatal care for 70 women. With approximately 1,200 babies in total born each year in Martin County, it is quite an achievement for Healthy Start to be able to underwrite the costs of serving that many women,” said Scott Berry, executive director of Martin County Healthy Start Coalition. “We are so grateful to our ‘community dance stars,’ professional dancers, sponsors, and the hundreds of people who came to support them. Because of their efforts, babies will be born healthy in the coming year.”

One hundred percent of the funds raised through Dancing with the Martin Stars is put towards services and programs offered by the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition such as prenatal care, ultrasounds, lab testing, and providing high-risk mothers with the specialized care they need.

Six Martin County dancers competed with their professional dance partners in this year’s Dancing with the Martin Stars. They included: Patty Morris, the district teacher of the year for the Martin County School District, with Craig Galvin; Tara Zweben, community outreach coordinator for Zweben Law Group, and Travis Scott; Rachel Terlizzi, coordinator of Community Health Improvement for Martin Health Systems, with Bob Murray; Martin County Sheriff William Snyder with Emily Powers; Kenan Siegel, Lyric Theatre board member and Pine School board member, and Marianela Tobar; “Shipper Pete” Morello, the owner of UPS packing stores, with Thany Lim.

**Fundraising Totals:**

Rachel Terlizzi: \$25,538  
Kenan Siegel: \$21,036  
Tara Zweben: \$14,760  
Sheriff Snyder: \$13,070  
Peter Morello: \$8,830  
Patty Morris: \$7,638

**Dance scores:**

Rachel Terlizzi: 30  
Tara Zweben: 30  
Peter Morello: 29  
Sheriff Snyder: 28  
Kenan Siegel: 27  
Patty Morris: 26

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**Sponsors of the event included:** Matilda's, Martin Health System; Seacoast National Bank; Lauri Goldstein; Hi-Tide; Health South Rehab Hospital of Martin Health; PNC Bank; Martin Health Foundation; Zweben Law Group, PA; Temple Beit HaYam; Police Benevolent Association of Martin and Palm Beach County; Geiger; Jeff Hardin; Rober Calder; James Alden; Mark Rentz; William E. Lippisch, DMD; Treasure Coast Alliance; The Saelzer/Atlas Wealth Management Group; Kite Realty; Eventmakers International; Temple Beit HaYam Early Childhood Learning Center; Yoga Fish; Lively Orthodontics; New Wave Realty; Frank and Courtney Brogan; Scripps Treasure Coast Newspaper; Lesser, Lesser, Landy and Smith; Davis Wealth Management Group; Rock Paper Salon; Sheila Biehl, PA. In-kind sponsors included: Arc Angels; Balanced Bodyworks; Chili's; Coast 101.3; Craig's Dance Studio; Crush; Cupcake Freaks; Ellie's Deli; The Firefly Group; FirstWatch; Flanigan's; Fred Astaire; Hobie Hiler; Importico; Luna's; MainEvent TV; Mulligan's; Republic National Distribution; Spoto's; StarStruck Theatre; Tara Biek Creative; Team Holland; UPS Store; Video Revelation.

For more information about the Martin County Healthy Start Coalition call 772-463-2888 or visit [mhealthystart.org](http://mhealthystart.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, prenatal care 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. Martin County Healthy Start is supported by the Florida Department of Health, the Children's Services Council of Martin County, the United Way of Martin County, and the Hobe Sound Community Chest.

Connect with Martin County Healthy Start Coalition on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MCHealthyStart](http://www.facebook.com/MCHealthyStart). For more information, call 772-463-2888 or visit <http://www.mhealthystart.org>.

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**Photo Caption:** 2014 Dancing with the Martin Stars winners, Rachel Terlizzi and her partner, Bob Murray, celebrate with their mirror ball trophies Saturday, September 13, 2014 at StarStruck Theatre in Stuart, Fla. The fourth annual Dancing with the Stars event raised nearly \$92,000 for mothers and babies in Martin County.