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SOUTH CAROLINA TOBACCO COLLABORATIVE AWARDS \$80,000 FOR LOCAL PROGRAMS WORKING TO REDUCE THE TOLL OF TOBACCO USE

COLUMBIA, SC (September 25, 2008) – The South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative (SCTC) has awarded \$80,000 in Community Partnership Grants for the 2008-2009 grant cycle to thirteen community coalitions and organizations in South Carolina to fund programs and activities designed to reduce the toll of tobacco use within the recipients’ communities and service areas.

“This year, this type of grant funding is more important than ever because the \$2 million in state-level funding for tobacco prevention programs was cut,” said Carol Reeves, SCTC Board Chair. “It’s vital that local efforts come on strong to decrease our smoking rates by driving prevention programs and helping people find resources if they want to quit. And we now have 20% of the state’s population covered by smoke-free workplace laws. Some of these funded programs will help keep that momentum going.”

The list of recipient coalitions and organizations includes: B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Coalition in Horry County, Clarendon County Tobacco Free Kids Coalition, Coastal South Tobacco Coalition (serving Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties), Greenville Tobacco Initiative, MUSC Hollings Cancer Center, Pee Dee Healthy People, South Carolina Pharmacy Association, Spartanburg Tobacco Free Coalition, The Musician & Songwriters Guild of South Carolina, The Phoenix Center of Greenville, Tobacco Free Kids Coalition of Greenville, University of South Carolina Healthy Carolina, and YMCA Georgetown.

The South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative provides Community Partnership Grants annually to local coalitions, partnerships and organizations throughout the state. The purpose of the Community Partnership Grant is to support local community-based efforts, promote implementation of “Addressing the Toll of Tobacco: Five Year State Plan” for the state of South Carolina, and foster collaboration among organizations across the state to ultimately reduce the toll of tobacco use in South Carolina. Projects that are funded address one or more of the three goals: Prevent Initiation of Tobacco Use, Eliminate Exposure to Secondhand Smoke, and Promote Quitting Among All Tobacco Users.

“Our funding for this year has a very broad reach, covering the Upstate to the Lowcountry,” said Gina Lane, SCTC State Program Coordinator. “We feel good that we are funding many returning grant recipients because of the successful outcomes they create with their programs, and we’re also forming new partnerships that will reach out to even more communities.”

About the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative

The South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative is a statewide assembly of the leading health organizations, community coalitions, and businesses committed to reducing the toll of tobacco use in South Carolina by providing resources and education on tobacco related issues to advocates, lawmakers, and concerned citizens. For more information, please visit www.smokefreesc.org.

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