



Contact:
Alison K. McLaurin
NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund
919-733-4009 (w); 919-649-8002(c)

L. Hester
919-882-1979 (w); 919-923-0745 (c)

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HWTF Honors Community Champions with 2005 *Distinguished Service Award in Preventive Health*

Terrie Hall receives *Advocacy Award*

RALEIGH, NC – Proven and innovative approaches make preventive health a priority. It is this kind of commitment that has earned Terrie Hall of Lexington the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund's (HWTF) inaugural *Distinguished Service Award in Preventive Health*. Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, who serves as HWTF chair, presented Hall with the *Advocacy Award* on Dec. 6 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

"Terrie has taken her personal tragedy and made it her mission to warn youth about the effects of smoking," said Lt. Gov. Perdue. "We thank her for her willingness to publicly tell her story in the name of preventing others from sharing her same fate."

The new *Distinguished Service in Preventive Health Awards* were created to recognize North Carolina's top community leaders who have demonstrated a tireless commitment to the health and wellness of North Carolina's citizens. These recipients represent various professions including education, government, medicine, business and philanthropy. This year, 11 individuals from across the state received this high honor from Lt. Gov. Perdue and the HWTF.

As a gymnast in high school, Hall avoided anything that would hurt her performance, including smoking. Once she stopped competing, her motivation faded and she started smoking casually at parties. Before long, Hall's social smoking turned into a two-pack-a-day addiction that would last more than 22 years. Extensive damage to her windpipe caused Hall to undergo a permanent tracheotomy to allow her to breathe.

Today, Hall is a cancer survivor and HWTF teen tobacco use prevention grantee who has committed her life to speaking to teens across the state at schools and community events – showing them tobacco's deadly consequences first-hand. She also stars in HWTF sponsored television ads, warning teens about the very real danger of smoking. (To view the ad, go to www.HealthWellNC.com.)

ABOUT THE NC HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND:

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund makes North Carolina stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF invests in programs and partnerships related to teen tobacco use, prescription drugs, childhood obesity and health disparities. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

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