

For Immediate Release

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North Carolina Youth Tobacco Advocates Receive National Recognition from Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

North Carolinians Take Home Two Prestigious Awards

Raleigh, NC - For the second consecutive year, North Carolina has earned national recognition from the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK). Anna Butler of Matthews, NC and "Question Why," a North Carolina-based advocacy organization working to prevent NC teens from using tobacco, will be honored tomorrow at a gala event in Washington D.C. Both are supported by NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) grant funding.

Anna, a junior at Charlotte Christian School, will be named the South Regional Individual Youth Advocate of the Year, following in the footsteps of last year's winner; Durham's Chad Bullock. An instrumental leader for youth tobacco prevention in Mecklenburg County, Anna is responsible for the formation of several youth clubs like a local chapter of Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) and has worked to pass a local ordinance to help protect youth from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

The Central-Eastern chapter of "Question Why" is being honored as the Campaign's Youth Advocate of the Year Group winner. With expert professional guidance, youth of Question Why offer a variety of programs including "Tobacco 101," a basic course for educating youth about tobacco use, its health effects and harmful ingredients contained in tobacco products.

"We are so very proud that Anna and Question Why are being recognized nationally," said Vandana Shah, Executive Director of HWTF. "Now the whole country will know what we have known for years; that North Carolina's tobacco prevention efforts are second to none."

The winners will receive educational scholarships and grants to continue their prevention efforts and serve as ambassadors for CTFK.

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 has invested \$143 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$102 million to fund prescription drug assistance programs. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

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