



**To: Illinois Tar Wars Presenters and Health Department Programs**  
**From: Ginnie Flynn, Illinois Tar Wars state coordinator**  
**Date: December 28, 2009**

Thank you for your willingness to coordinate a Tar Wars effort with schools in your community or county and for every presentation you've made. Your time, effort and enthusiasm have played a major role in keeping Illinois children off the dangerous path of tobacco use.

**PROGRAM UPDATE:** Due to a sharp downturn in funding to the Family Health Foundation of Illinois, which administers the Illinois Tar Wars program, we do not have funding for 2010 to run the program past December 31, 2009. The Illinois Tar Wars program will still accept entries for a statewide poster contest in April 2010 and implement a fair and impartial system to select an Illinois state poster contest winner. **However, we currently do not have the funding available for prizes, events or to pay for the state poster contest winner's travel to Washington, DC.**

**Poster contest entries.** If you conduct a local poster contest encompassing multiple schools, you may submit **up to five posters** from your local contest, **but no two posters can come from the same school.** If you do not coordinate a local poster contest, any school that does their own poster contest may submit their school's **one winning** poster contest directly to Illinois Tar Wars, 4756 Main St. Lisle, IL 60532.

**Posters will be due in IAFP's offices by April 5, 2010.**

**State poster contest.** The Illinois Tar Wars program will hold the state poster contest in April 2010 and enter our winning poster in the National contest. The results will be announced to all Tar Wars presenters and schools via e-mail. The winner should plan to travel at their own expense if they wish to attend the national poster contest. AAFP Tar Wars does offer some travel scholarships and Illinois AFP would help the winner apply for that funding possibility.

#### **Going forward in Illinois**

The National Tar Wars program will continue and all the materials and resources will continue to be available on the [www.tarwars.org](http://www.tarwars.org) web site. IAFP encourages current Tar Wars presenters and schools to continue to include this FREE program as an effective tactic to prevent tobacco use among Illinois fourth and fifth graders. However, IAFP staff will be unable to recruit new schools or presenters. Presenters and schools will need to initiate and maintain contact throughout the process. The Illinois State Board of Education posts contact information for public and non-public schools at <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/research/htmls/directories.htm>. IAFP will continue assist any school who contacts IAFP directly looking for a presenter and connect them to an existing Tar Wars presenter for help.

Meanwhile, the Illinois Foundation will work hard throughout 2010 to stabilize its financial standing, with the goal of resurrecting all the important Foundation programs that benefit the health of our state. Contact me with any questions at [gflynn@iafp.com](mailto:gflynn@iafp.com) or 630-427-8004. We are so grateful to all the support from individual presenters, Illinois local health departments, medical schools, residency programs and other organizations that have made our Illinois Tar Wars program such a success over the past 10 years.

***Happy New Year!***