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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NATIONAL TOBACCO “KICK BUTTS” DAY - MARCH 19th

*Most Teens Don't* helps Jackson County teens avoid deadly tobacco

Jackson, MI (March 12, 2014) - Jackson County's *Most Teens Don't* (MTD) ambassadors are teaming up with Jackson County schools to promote the National “Kick Butts” Day ([www.kickbuttsday.org](http://www.kickbuttsday.org)). The event is organized by *The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids* to reduce tobacco use and its deadly toll. According to [www.tobaccofreekids.org](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org), this year in Michigan: 14,200 people will die from smoking and 9,800 children under 18 will become new daily smokers.

The *Most Teens Don't* ambassadors are helping local schools create displays to help teens understand the dangers of using tobacco. One display will include several examples of household products like toilet bowl cleaner, moth balls, fingernail polish remover and hair dye. These common items have the same chemicals as those in tobacco smoke.

The MTD teens will also help the schools place 40 black flags on school grounds to represent the 40 people who die each day in Michigan from chemicals in tobacco smoke.

"These projects will have high impact, and will be a great visual for students, staff and the entire community," said Wendy Murdock, Drug Free Communities Coordinator. "Every student we can keep from smoking will help prevent a lifetime of poor health, higher health care expense and unnecessary family tragedy."



Yard Sign to accompany black flags

Participating schools include Grass Lake Middle School, Grass Lake High School, Hanover Horton High School, Jackson High School, Middle School at Parkside, Springport High School and Western High School. Also, United Way of Jackson County will have flags in front of their center on Jackson Street.

Parents, school officials or Jackson teens interested in the campaign can contact Wendy Murdock at (517) 796-5129 or 945-1589 (cell). For more information about the event, or to visit one of the schools, contact Wendy at the same number.

*Most Teens Don't* brings teens, schools, parents and community resources together across Jackson County to help our youth lead healthy lives and resist the lure of dangerous drugs. It is supported by many local resources, including the Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and United Way of Jackson County, and is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services' Drug Free Communities Support Program grant.

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