

On Nov. 16th, in collaboration with Amanda Hucksoll- Reality Check Program Manager, Rashawn Smalls- Community Engagement Program Manager, Tracey Karp- Theal- Executive Director- Boys and Girls Club of EMW, and Erik Hibit, Program Director of Boys and Girls Club of EMW a Great American Smokout Press Release event was held in the Dining Room of the Iroquois MS school.

Local community stakeholders, community leaders, ITAC Coalition members, and Iroquois School District Administrators were invited to celebrate the work of youth summer campers in honor of the Great American Smokeout.

The event highlighted the new ITAC billboard showcasing the students. The billboard is up on Transit Road – near Weiland Automotive- and there is a 2nd board that we are waiting to hear the exact location of.

Thank you to Amanda and Rashwan for coordinating this event and more importantly for the valuable information you provided during the summer program with the campers! It is obvious that you both are very passionate about your work and in keeping our environment clean and healthy; that message resonated with the kids yesterday.

And thank you to Linda Boyle and Tate for assisting with coordinating the DR and tech needs.

Summary:

Attendance-

Amanda, Rashawn, Tracey, Erik, 1-parent, Bette, Ron, Brooks Dehr, Sarah, and Justin

16- EMW Club kids

Certificates of appreciation were given to the Boys and Girls Club, ITAC and the Iroquois School District

“Goodie” bags were assembled for each of the club kids; included sunglasses, water bottle, wrist band, jar opener, stress balls, candy, parent literature, magnet of ITAC meeting dates, clip, and mood changing pencils

The youth were very engaged and participated eagerly as Amanda and Rashawn explained the meaning of the Great American Smokout and recapped the activities of the summer program.

An article detailing the event will be sent to the local paper-with an image of the billboard

Invited to attend:

All town supervisors, ITAC Coalition members, media, Mitch Martin, Senator Gallivan's office, EA Chamber of Commerce, and Iroquois District administration.

Follow up- Youth expressed a strong interest in another ping pong tournament, or similar activity focusing on healthy living. Amanda will connect with Erik to plan an event in the next few months.

Perhaps **Isabelle** from the Club could highlight the billboard image on a Club Social media post? We have a better image that we can provide if you need it.

Thank you to ITAC's **Joanne Goellner** for designing the awesome billboard highlighting our kids and sending a strong message to the community. And many thanks to ITAC's Program Director- **Sarah Sterlace** for gathering all the goodies for the kids.

Partnerships and collaboration are the key to our success- THANK YOU!

