

Teens of the Month



Caleb Black



Marina McKee

Not only are teens across the state taking a pledge against tobacco use, two teens from Yancey County have been named Teen of The Month by Tobacco Reality Unfiltered (TRU). TRU is a movement to create the first generation of tobacco-free teens in North Carolina.

These Two Yancey County Youth were chosen as Teen of the Month from all of North Carolina and the only two from the western region. A TRU Teen of the month is someone who believes and understands the message of TRU. They are committed to staying tobacco-free and helping their friends do the same.

Caleb's interests in teen tobacco prevention stems from his leadership in 4-H as a Health Rocks Curriculum instructor. Marina's motivation toward a tobacco free generation is linked to the death of two of her grandparents from tobacco related disease. The criteria was based on submitting an original creation like an essay, poem, song, video or artwork telling why they have chosen to be tobacco-free. Caleb and Marina both submitted winning essays.

Caleb's 4-H Leader says, "Caleb has great compassion for his fellow students and has been teaching others about tobacco prevention since he was in eighth grade. I'm proud of all the work he has accomplished and the leadership skills he has developed."

According to Marina's school counselor, Marina was a cheerleader this school year and served as co-captain. She was a member of the Duke University TIP program and took the SAT in seventh grade. She loves to draw and is constantly inventing characters and story lines.

Both teens went to Charlotte to make advertisements that will be broadcast on stations such as MTV, Comedy Central, and Nickelodeon. Their winning submissions will also be on realityunfiltered.com.

Penny Bailey, Coordinator of Yancey County Teen Prevention stated "These two teens have only recently become involved with the Yancey TRU teen movement in Yancey County and have already made a difference." Any youth who wants to take a stand, save lives and become a TRU teen, may contact me, Penny Bailey at 682 6118 ext 35"