



**Melanoma Foundation of New England Names Winners in
Your Skin Is In 8th Annual Pledge Drive**

**29 High Schools and Colleges Across New England
Lead the Way in Educating about Melanoma Prevention**

Concord, MA - The Melanoma Foundation of New England (MFNE) announced today that 29 high schools and colleges across New England have won prizes for showing exceptional leadership skills in the organization's 8th annual *Your Skin Is In* pledge drive. Student teams in each school earned cash prizes by creating awareness about UV safety and teaching their peers about the dangers of intentional tanning. Thanks to their collective efforts, 145,000 students across New England we're impacted by the *Your Skin Is In* pledge during the program that ran January-April, 2015.

MFNE's *Your Skin Is In* program educates teens and young adults on high school and college campuses about the dangers of tanning and the direct link between tanning beds and melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. Throughout the *Your Skin Is In* program teen leaders invited their peers to pledge not to use indoor tanning beds or intentionally tan outdoors – especially during spring break or prom season. MFNE representatives and young melanoma survivors traveled to participating schools across New England educating about the dangers of tanning, offering facial scans, and teaching teens and young adults about melanoma prevention. Schools that collected the most pledges earned prizes from cash awards to gift certificates, to trips to Six Flags New England, pizza parties and more

Deb Girard, MFNE's Executive Director said, "We are so proud of all of the students that stepped forward this year to spearhead *Your Skin Is In* in their schools. Teens want to believe that skin cancer can't happen to them, or that it's safe to just get a 'base tan' before the prom or before spring break. The truth is that there is no safe tan - whether in a tanning booth or outside in the sun - tanning can lead to skin cancer. We hope students will remember their pledge for a lifetime and pay it forward by reminding others not to intentionally tan."

2015 High School Winners Include:

\$1,000 Prizes:

Highest Percentage of Pledges:

Mount Alvernia High School, Newton, MA

Highest Number of Pledges:

Waltham High School, Waltham, MA

\$500 Prizes:

Connecticut:

Ansonia High School, Ansonia, CT

Global Experience Magnet School, Bloomfield, CT

Metropolitan Learning Center, Bloomfield, CT

The Williams School, New London, CT

Maine:

Maranacook Community High School, Readfield, ME
Sacopee Valley High School, Hiram, ME
Wells High School, Wells, ME

Massachusetts:

Belchertown High School, Belchertown, MA
Boston Latin Academy, Dorchester, MA
Lynnfield High School, Lynnfield, MA
North Quincy High School, North Quincy, MA

New Hampshire:

Moultonborough Academy, Moultonborough, NH
Winnisquam Regional High School, Tilton, NH

Rhode Island:

Burrillville High School, Harrisville, RI
Cranston East High School, Cranston, RI
Lincoln High School, Lincoln, RI – grade 11

Vermont:

Arlington Memorial High School, Arlington, VT – grade 10

College Winners include:**Team Leader \$250 Winners:**

- Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT, Team Fairfield University
- Bentley University, Waltham, MA, Team Erin
- Bridgewater State, Bridgewater, MA, Team BSU Team Leaders
- Nichols College, Dudley, MA, Team Bison
- Stonehill College, Easton, MA, Team Prevent That!
- Springfield College, Springfield, MA, Team SC
- University of Maine, Orono, ME, Team INT 200 Melanoma Group
- Salve Regina University, Newport, RI, Team AMA

Highest Percentage of Pledges \$500 Winner:

- Keene Beauty Academy (94% of students took the pledge)

Highest Number of Pledges \$500 Winner:

- University of Rhode Island (555 students took the pledge)

Team Leader Raffle Winner:

- Elizabeth Drexler-Hines, Assumption College, MA

By visiting mfne.org, anyone can learn the facts about tanning and take the *Your Skin Is In* pledge any time throughout the year. A video entitled “Exposed” features the stories of melanoma survivors explaining where they became “exposed” to melanoma and how it might have been avoided. 103.3 AMP Radio Boston, Brigham & Women’s Department of Dermatology and Elizabeth Grady are proud sponsors of *Your Skin Is In*. For more

information about *Your Skin Is In* please see mfne.org, call [800-557-6352](tel:800-557-6352) or email Amy Mason at yourskinisin@mfne.org.

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About MFNE:

MFNE is a non-profit organization that works to reduce the incidence of melanoma in the New England region. As the largest non-profit in the region dedicated to skin cancer awareness and early detection, MFNE provides a variety of free education programs targeting the prevention of skin cancer for children, teens and adults. MFNE's *Your Skin Is In* program was recognized by the American Academy of Dermatology with a Gold Triangle award in 2009. MFNE also assists patients and their caregivers struggling with melanoma by offering support groups and their "Billy's Buddies" program. Learn more about MFNE at www.mfne.org.

The Facts about Teens & Tanning:

- The World Health Organization has determined that UV rays from tanning beds cause cancer.
- The increased risk of melanoma associated with early tanning bed use is 59% for people whose first exposure to artificial UV rays in a tanning bed occurred before age 35 years and that risk increased with the number of tanning bed sessions per year.
- 2.5 million teens use tanning booths each year including 35% of girls age 17 – many start as early as age 13.
- Melanoma is the second most common cancer in teens and young adults ages 15-29.
- It is not safe to tan in the sun or in a tanning booth. Using a tanning bed for 20 minutes is the same as spending 1-3 hours a day at the beach with no sun protection at all. Tanning beds put out 3-6 times the amount of radiation given off by the sun.

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