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## **JESSICA CLINTON FOUNDATION PARTNERS TO PREVENT SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST IN YOUTH ONLY ONE OF A KIND EVENTS IN THE STATE**

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**St. Lucie County, FL** – In 2013 the Foundation approached the health department to host this event. Many people die each year from various heart conditions and in some cases never display symptoms. The Jessica Clinton Foundation hosted its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual *Know Your Heart Screening* event, free to any child or student between the ages of 5 to 20. Over 600 individuals registered, and the screening consist of a heart physical, blood pressure check, and EKG (electrocardiogram) and an Echocardiogram (if required) as determined by a pediatric cardiologist. All services are provided on-site with the assistance of over 60 plus medical volunteers from as far south as Miami-Dade County.

The Jessica Clinton Foundation single focus is preventing sudden cardiac arrest in children and young athletes. Jessica died at her school following a cheerleading practice in 2003. She had a severe, undiagnosed heart condition. Her condition was not detected in routine physicals during her time as a cheerleader and her school did not have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on site.

“An early diagnosis will definitely increase the likelihood of a positive outcome, and since our partnership we have had a few lifesaving success stories,” said Clint Sperber, Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County.

Jessica’s parents promised to keep her memory forever alive, and to prevent similar tragedies from occurring by holding *Know Your Heart Screenings* and advocating for AEDs at all schools and parks.

The event location: Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County - 5150 NW Milner Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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