

## **TOBACCO-FREE PROGRAM CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR**

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Tobacco-free LeFlore County recently celebrated its first year of existence and a \$125,000 grant from the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust that funds its second year, according to Benjamin “B.J.” Barnes, the program’s coordinator.

Tobacco-free LeFlore County is a program of the LeFlore County Coalition for Healthy Living and LeFlore County Youth Services

In the past year, program officials worked with four schools — Howe, Shady Point and Spiro public schools and Kiamichi Technology Center — to adopt round-the-clock tobacco-free school policies, two businesses to adopt tobacco-free worksite policies and aided 340 LeFlore County residents in registering with the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline, according to a news release.

The Tobacco-free program is a coalition of individuals and businesses concerned about the negative effects tobacco has on LeFlore County, Barnes said. For information, email Barnes at [bj@LCYS.org](mailto:bj@LCYS.org) or call (918) 647-4196.