

KOP CVS honored on Kick Butts Day

The Upper Merion Area Community Alliance for a Safer Tomorrow (CAST) and the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Montgomery County joined forces on Kick Butts Day, March 19, a national day of activism against tobacco. Susan Shelton, Community Mobilizer for CAST, and Eleanor Dill, Coordinator of the Tobacco-Free Coalition for Montgomery County, presented King of Prussia CVS Manager, Jerry Prospero, with a certificate of appreciation for CVS's corporate decision to discontinue the sale of tobacco in its stores as of Oct. 1, 2014.

"We are thrilled to know that youth from our community will no longer be exposed to harmful tobacco products purchased from this store. We hope that more pharmacies will follow suit, and we applaud CVS for this bold decision. Every day, another 700

kids become smokers, and one-third of them will die prematurely as a result of smoking-related diseases," said Shelton. Dill added, "Youth smoking has been cut in half since 1997, but 18.1 percent of high school students still smoke, so we have a lot of work to do!"

Students from the Upper Merion Middle School CAST Club were on hand at CVS, waving posters to show that they stand with CVS. The students are continuing their activism beyond Kick Butts Day. Each morning, the students deliver an anti-smoking message on Viking Video, the school's morning announcement system. They're doing their part to make tobacco history!

Members of the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Montgomery County were out in force, hand-delivering certificates



Susan Shelton (right), Community Mobilizer for CAST, and Eleanor Dill (left), coordinator of the Tobacco-Free Coalition for Montgomery County, presented King of Prussia CVS Manager, Jerry Prospero (center), with a certificate of appreciation.

to CVS stores throughout the county in connection with Kick Butts Day. According to Dill, the King of Prussia CVS was one of 21 CVS stores in Montgomery County to

receive a visit from coalition members, with the remaining 9 stores receiving certificates by mail.



UM CAST members who helped honor the King of Prussia CVS for its upcoming nationwide tobacco ban