



NEWS

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Announcing the 2004 Clean Air Champions!

**Clean Air Champions from
Alameda, Marin, and San Francisco counties
will be honored July 21, 2004**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District)--along with the American Lung Association, RIDES for Bay Area Commuters and the U.S. EPA--is proud to announce five Bay Area Clean Air Champions for their exceptional efforts towards clean air.

"Our 2004 Champions are folks who demonstrate a consistent and inspirational personal commitment towards improving the air we breathe," said Air District Executive Officer Jack Broadbent. "They deserve to be recognized!"

This year's winners include:

- San Franciscan John Holtzclaw**, who has dedicated years publicizing the link between clean air, smart growth and transportation choices. John (who gave up his car years ago), has been involved in clean air issues for over 30 years,
- Oakland resident, James Callahan**, an environmental scientist whose volunteer efforts at Bay Area museums help educate the public about air pollution and climate change issues, and
- a three member team from **Mill Valley--Cynthia Witwicki**, her daughter, **Kelly** and Kelly's best friend, **Colleen Zak**—who were selected for their efforts to significantly reduce the number of children arriving to school alone in a car, decreasing air pollution and helping to propel the Safe Routes to School Program in Marin County into the national and international spotlight.

The 2004 Clean Air Champions will be honored at a public presentation Wednesday, July 21, 2004 at 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco in the 7th floor Board room. The ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m.

(MORE)

About the Winners

James Callahan

James Callahan has adopted the epitome of the clean air lifestyle. Instead of driving alone, he uses the casual carpool or mass transit. Errands and visits are made on his bike and he is a staunch energy conservationist. As a volunteer, James helped develop the environmental science program at Chabot Space and Science Center and has made clean air an important theme at Chabot. In his own time, James has developed interactive demonstrations and activities about air quality and with other volunteers and scientists developed a website dealing with climate change issues (www.climatechangeeducation.com). He popularized an easy particulate matter sampler using inexpensive, recycled materials. In addition, James helps plan Earth Day events throughout Alameda county

John Holtzclaw

John Holtzclaw, a longtime volunteer of the Sierra Club, is recognized as a Clean Air Champion for his many years of dedicated efforts to educate and engage the public about the impact of transportation choices on clean air quality. He has compiled numerous studies and highly-regarded research to validate changes in air quality policy. He has also devoted countless hours as founder, chair and board member of many air quality organizations in the Bay Area, including service on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Advisory Council.

Cynthia and Kelly Witwicki and Colleen Zak

Cynthia Witwicki, her daughter Kelly and Kelly' friend Colleen Zak have been awarded Clean Air Champions for helping to significantly reduce the number of children arriving to school alone in a car, decreasing air pollution and helping to propel the Safe Routes to School Program in Marin County into the national and international spotlight.

Cynthia has been a volunteer team leader for Safe Routes to School for four years, and in that time, has worked in three different schools, helped bring in two additional schools to the program and initiated a carpool-matching program for the entire Mill Valley School District.

Kelly and Colleen, both heading into eighth grade at Mill Valley Middle School, not only participate in the program by riding their bikes to school every day, rain or shine, but they are also tireless cheerleaders for Safe Routes to School. Every Wednesday they stand outside their school with banners cheering on students who bike or walk to class, they have established a student team to run contests and encourage more walking and biking among students and in September 2003 they presented their program to a conference in England as part of the U.S. delegation.

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