

# Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County

Fall 2014 Newsletter

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## Points of Interest Sept – Dec

**13 entire elementary schools** (8,079 children) received a land-based water safety presentation

**38,360 people** were exposed to water safety education during a total of 141 different activities/presentations

**Volunteers donated 139 hours** handing out water safety and drowning prevention information to the public

*The Coalition is a government entity funded by:*



Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners

Shelley Vana, Mayor  
Mary Lou Berger, Vice Mayor  
Hal R. Valeche  
Paulette Burdick  
Steven L. Abrams  
Melissa McKinlay  
Priscilla A. Taylor

County Administrator  
Robert Weisman

Children's Services Council  
Palm Beach County

*The Coalition is managed by:*

Palm Beach County  
Fire Rescue

### **Coalition Contact Information**

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B is for BAD drains! Diane at G Star School of the Arts.



Anna teaching "Reach or Throw, Don't Go" techniques to a group at Bridges at Northwood.



Water wings are not safe flotation devices. They are filled with air and can pop.



DPC conducting water safety training for Port Saint Lucie Parks and Recreation staff.



Just because a life jacket may look good doesn't mean it is good!

## Buddy Gets a New Pal

Drum roll please....introducing Buddy Junior! When Buddy the seahorse mascot isn't available for programming or health and safety fair events, Buddy Junior will take his place. Buddy Junior is a great way to roll out the Coalition's mascot in another fun way.



## DPC and Tri-Rail Team Up to Promote Water Safety

Drowning incidents occur year-round in Palm Beach County, so there is a need to continuously provide water safety messages to the public. The Drowning Prevention Coalition (DPC) of Palm Beach County and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail has formed a partnership to disseminate drowning prevention information.

Tri-Rail has donated the use of five advertising spaces inside its trains for displaying colorful posters that will be viewed by thousands of passengers. The posters portray the coalition's mascot, Buddy the seahorse, along with the ABCDs of water safety.



The DPC suggests that everyone uses the ABCDs of water safety to stay safe in and around water, but it is up to each individual to make sure a drowning incident does not occur.

## Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County

### DPC Coordinator Chosen to Speak at 19<sup>th</sup> International Boating and Water Safety Summit in San Destin, Florida

The International Boating & Water Safety Summit is the premier event for training, awareness, meeting and networking for anyone involved in boating and water safety. Sessions cover a broad spectrum of national and international concerns with a focus on the United States Coast Guard National Strategic Plan and implementation opportunities. DPC Coordinator Diane Hennessy will be presenting *Education Connection: Drowning Prevention in Schools*. By the end of her session, participants will understand how to connect with schools and organizations for outreach/land based water safety speaking opportunities, have a broader knowledge of what water safety topics to cover at various age levels, become familiar with hands-on props, and return back to the community with drowning prevention (and budget saving) teaching ideas. We are so proud!

### Rotary Club of Delray Beach Donates \$1,000 for Josh the Baby Otter Materials



*Josh The Baby Otter* was created in honor of Joshua Collingsworth, a 2 ½ year old boy who lost his life to a drowning accident in June of 2008. He got out of his parents sight during a family gathering and ended up in the pool. This book was created by the Collingsworth family to teach children that water is fun but only with an adult. With the \$1,000 donated by the Rotary Club of Delray Beach, the following materials were given to the DPC: one oversized *Josh The Baby Otter* book (to be kept for our educational programming), and 243 smaller *Josh The Baby Otter* books (with powerpoint/audio presentation disc) with subsequent coloring pages to be delivered to children in Delray Beach.

## Consumer Product Safety Commission Recognizes the DPC

The Coalition was recognized by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission in its November *Pool Safely* newsletter. This newsletter is sent to thousands of people. What amazing exposure!

#### Newsletter excerpt:

*Pool Safely* also would like to recognize the [Drowning Prevention Coalition \(DPC\) of Palm Beach County](#) in West Palm Beach, Florida, for including the campaign in their recent drowning prevention efforts.



On November 12, DPC staff gave a water safety presentation to a Junior Girl Scout troop in Lake Worth, Florida. The troop played DPC's water safety game and received *Pool Safely* beach balls as prizes (pictured, right) for knowing so much about staying safer in and around the water!

