

# Your News

JENSEN BEACH, STUART, PALM CITY, HOBE SOUND

## Keep Martin Beautiful, community partners participate in Great American Cleanup

By Jessica Waugaman  
Your News contributor

Nearly 11,000 pounds of trash removed, four neighborhoods revitalized

STUART – After three months of painting, cleaning and planting, Keep Martin Beautiful (KMB) and its community partners were able to remove nearly 11,000 pounds of litter, clean 23 parks and beaches and revitalize four neighborhoods in Martin County.

This effort is part of the nationwide event, The Great American Cleanup (GAC), which is organized nationally by Keep America Beautiful (KAB) and locally by KMB each year from March 1 to May 31. In those 92 days, KAB affiliates such as KMB organize events to beautify, revitalize and remove litter from communities.

Each year, local non-profit, Habitat Angel, partners with KMB for their GAC effort, the Extreme Martin Makeover. In 2014 this event focused on Port Salerno's New Monrovia neighborhood. More than 300 volunteers came out to revitalize the neighborhood and beautify 22 homes by painting, landscaping and even replacing a roof.

"We were thrilled to be a part of the Great American Cleanup again this year," said Hank Meira, coordinator for Habitat Angel. "We love to see the difference we make when working together to revitalize communities"

In total, more than 1,000 volunteers participated in more than 30 events, 165 of which were Martin County Troops of the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida. The Girl Scouts participated in 23 different clean up events in 19 different locations throughout Martin County.

"We are so proud for what the young ladies have done for not only KMB, but their communities," said the president of Keep Martin Beautiful, Jim Dragseth.

"It is important to teach the importance of the environment to the next generation."

KMB also helped to organize

cleanups in the Banner Lake, East Stuart and Golden Gate communities, which focused on litter cleanup.

Martin County's HazMobile was also on hand at several events to help recycle hazardous material.

Sponsors of the 2014 Great American Cleanup include: R3 Recycling, Kohl's, Seacoast National Bank, Southern Eagle, Sailor's Return, Wallace Automotive, FPL, Waste Pro, NisAir, Whiticar Boat Works, AmeriSweeps, Cook Electric, Inc., Abney & Abney Green Solutions, Culligan, Peter's Hardware, Rocky's Ace Hardware, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, The Firefly Group, Treasure & Space Coast Radio, Tidy Coast Event Services, Habitat for Humanity, Tent Logix and Capps Roofing

For more information visit <http://www.keeptmartinbeautiful.org> or contact KMB at 772-781-1222 or [info@keeptmartinbeautiful.org](mailto:info@keeptmartinbeautiful.org).

Keep Martin Beautiful (KMB) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community organization founded in 1994 as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Martin County through litter prevention, the promotion of recycling, improvement of solid waste management practices, and beautification and community revitalization activities. KMB signature events and programs include the annual Environmental Stewardship Awards Ceremony, the International Coastal Cleanup, the Great American Cleanup, the Adopt-A-Road and Adopt-A-Street programs, and other educational and outreach activities. Find KMB on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBea...>, follow KMB on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/KMBmartin](http://www.twitter.com/KMBmartin) or visit <http://www.KeepMartinBeautiful.org>.



During the Extreme Martin Makeover in Port Salerno with partners, Habitat Angel, volunteers helped paint 22 homes.

PHOTO PROVIDED