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Clean Your Block Party removes thousands of pounds of litter

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PALM CITY – Two thousand pounds of litter later, Keep Martin Beautiful, a non-profit, volunteer based organization dedicated to creating and sustaining a cleaner, greener, more beautiful community, successfully concluded the 2016 Great American Cleanup. Throughout March and April, Keep America Beautiful affiliates across the nation participated in various activities such as litter and marine debris removal, new community garden preparations, neighborhood landscaping and beautification, home repairs and painting, household hazardous waste removal and new recycling initiatives as a part of the Clean Your Block Party.

Over the past 18 years since



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Volunteers and coordinators Meghan Mickiewicz, Jordan Tompkins, Chris Pinkston, Adriana Mancini, Tiffany Smith, Kylee Willis and Josh Kincaid are pictured at the Keep Martin Beautiful and Students4H2O beach cleanup in April.

the creation of the Great American Cleanup, it has become the country's largest community improvement program with more than 4 million volunteers in 20,000 communities across the nation taking action to create positive change and lasting impact in their own neighborhoods. Martin County's participation in the Great American Cleanup rallied more than 200 volunteers who donated approximately 1,400 hours of their time to the beautification of our community.

"We were very impressed by the amount of time and effort our volunteers devoted to improving our community. While we have diverse volunteers ranging from civic clubs and school groups to business owners and retirees, everyone

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has a common goal in mind: protect, enhance and beautify our environment in Martin County," explained Keep Martin Beautiful president Craig Ahal. "Our volunteers clearly made impactful improvements around town through their tireless commitment to the Great American Cleanup and our new Clean Your Block Party initiative."

Thank you to the 2016 Great American Cleanup Sponsors: Ace Hardware Stuart; Captec Engineering, Inc.; The City of Stuart; Cook Electric, Inc.;

Florida Department of Transportation; Jenkins Landscape Co.; Lowe's; Martin County; Niagara Water; Pinder's Nursery; Reich, Mancini and Zequeira; Sailors Return; The Firefly Group; Wallace Mazda; Wallace Nissan; and Whiticar Boat Works. For more information and upcoming volunteer opportunities call Keep Martin Beautiful at 772-781-1222, email events@keepmartinbeautiful.org or visit <http://www.keepmartinbeautiful.org> or Facebook message us at [facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful](https://www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful).

Keep Martin Beautiful is a 501(c)(3) non-profit commu-

nity organization founded in 1994. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Martin County through litter prevention, 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, International Coastal Cleanup, Great American Cleanup, Adopt-A-Road program, Adopt-A-Street program and other educational and outreach activities. Find KMB on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful, follow KMB on Twitter at www.twitter.com/KMBmartin or visit <http://www.keepmartinbeautiful.org>.