



Akron AAYAT and the Summit County stand during a day of advocacy in Montrose Shopping Center in Akron.



Akron and Cleveland AAYAT pose during the Northeast Ohio AAYAT Summit.



Columbus AAYAT at the AAYAT Youth Summit on April 30, 2007.



Cincinnati AAYAT at the Southwest AAYAT Youth Summit on April 30.

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# Congratulations to **Jolie Yang**

## International Youth Advocate of the Year

### spotlight

The Cleveland AAYAT chapter has worked above and beyond to create tobacco awareness and spread news in regards to the addictive effects of nicotine as well as the chemicals in cigarettes and cigars. Through various activities including: health fairs, dances, volleyball tournaments, and teachings to youth, AAYAT continued to put their total efforts into making this world a safer environment to live in. In addition, events such as the annual AAYAT Summit have also given members the opportunity to engage themselves in the many ways they can organize tobacco events and create demonstrations for the public's alertness. Among the countless energy put into numerous activities, there is one event in particular that truly illustrates the group's outreach in their surroundings.

On March 28, 2007, the Cleveland AAYAT members passed out stickers that said 50 each day in representation for the amount of people who died everyday due to smoking for Kick Butts Day. They reached a total of 560 people at places including: Mayfield High School, Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, John Marshall High School, Valley Forge High School, Carl F. Shuler High School, Harbor Education Program, St. Julie Billiard Church, Case Western Reserve University, and the East Side Factory. With the number of people informed, it is with great hope that the endeavors of the members have not gone a waste. These members will persist to notify others with information regarding the effects of tobacco with wishes for the best.

Jolie Yang of Centerville, Ohio near Dayton has been named International Youth Advocate of the Year by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids for her leadership in the fight against tobacco. A junior at Centerville High School, Jolie has been a youth intern with Asian American Youth Against Tobacco (AAYAT) for four years. During her time with AAYAT, Jolie has been actively involved with helping to pass smoke-free legislation in Centerville and to pass the Smoke-Free Ohio ballot initiative in December making workplaces statewide smoke-free. She is also actively involved in Ignite, a national youth-led organization fighting against big tobacco, and is founder of the Ignite Dayton chapter.

During the past few years, Jolie has traveled to Taiwan twice on her own to educate elementary and high school students about the dangers of smoking and tobacco use. She has encouraged the students that she met to stop smoking and to push for changes regarding tobacco control within their country. Additionally, Jolie has researched social attitudes towards smokers and the tobacco industry in Taiwan by collecting surveys and sharing her findings with others. In the future, Jolie is planning to return to Taiwan to help the students she met continue to organize their own anti-tobacco campaign and activities for youth.

Jolie and other youth advocates from around the country were honored at the Campaign For Tobacco Free Kids Gala & Awards Dinner on May 3, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

Please join us in congratulating Jolie on her accomplishments in tobacco control and wishing her the best in her future as an international advocate for tobacco control efforts worldwide.



Jolie Yang –  
 International Youth  
 Advocate of the Year

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Call and join us today by  
 contacting your  
 local AAYAT chapters.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

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Asian American  
 Youth  
 Against Tobacco  
 AAYAT

# 5th Annual AAYAT Leadership Summits

This spring, AAYAT hosted two Youth Leadership Summits on Saturday, April 21 for Northeast Ohio and on Saturday, April 30 for Central/ Southwest Ohio. The Northeast Ohio Summit was held at Poplar Ridge Adventures in Wooster, Ohio and the Central/ Southwest Summit was held at YMCA Camp Kern in Oregonia, Ohio near Cincinnati. Forty-eight youth and ten adults participated in the day-long summit which focused on youth activism and engaging legislators in tobacco control. In the morning, participants took on the challenge course at each location to building their skills in teamwork, communication, decision making and conflict resolution. In the afternoon, participants attended workshops and breakout sessions on recent tobacco issues, leadership, advocacy, and engaging legislators and community leaders. Teens from all five cities involved in AAYAT (Akron, Cleveland,



AAYAT interns and staff from Columbus, Cincinnati & Dayton pose at the 2007 AAYAT Youth Summit.

Columbus, Dayton & Cincinnati) also had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on role playing exercise entitled *The Journey*. The Journey enabled youth to create an action plan communicating with a legislator on tobacco issues and participating in a face-to-face meeting. AAYAT would like to thank Ben Radley at Poplar Ridges Adventures and the staff at YMCA Camp Kern for helping us host two great events this year.



Dayton AAYAT table at Wright State University for Kick Butts Day.

## spotlight

### Fighting for FDA Regulation in Dayton

On April 4, 2007, students at Wright State University got a big surprise in their Student Union when members of Dayton AAYAT set up a display on the regulation of tobacco by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and information table debunking the myths about tobacco. The Dayton chapter collected signatures from students and staff at Wright State to support future regulation of tobacco products by the FDA, an issue that is currently being presented in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Later in the month, Dayton AAYAT also hosted a similar table and display at Centerville High School to collect additional support and signatures. On May 3, Jolie Yang, a Dayton intern, presented the signatures and a banner in Washington, D.C. at the offices of Sen. George Voinovich and Rep. Mike Turner.

## Kick Butts Day

It's Wednesday, the 28th of March. It may seem like the typical Wednesday at High School, but little do students at Upper Arlington, Worthington Kilbourne, Reynoldsburg, and Dublin-Scioto High School know that today is a significant day. It's Kick Butts Day!

Puzzled students would stroll around in the halls of Upper Arlington High School. Some stopped and looked; others, oblivious, just walked past the presentation board on a table where all the student body travels through. Students don't realize the evils of tobacco until they take a closer look.

The presentation board depicted the dangerous chemicals that could be found in tobacco while a display of household products and poisons such as moth balls, acetone, and ammonia revealed the hazardous ingredients that smokers inhale when they smoke. Also displayed were a jar of tar and a jar of phlegm. The quart of tar represents the amount of tar that a one-pack-a-day smoker will inhale in one year of smoking. The quart of phlegm represents the amount of phlegm people with COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) have to clear from their lungs every day, just to keep breathing.

AAYAT buttons, no-smoking lollipops, and DEBUNKIFY mints were handed out as well to spread the news of 56 Ohio, the number of people that die each day in Ohio alone from tobacco-related diseases. 56 Ohio was the message of the day. A group of students at Worthington Kilbourne High School swarm around to receive and show their position on tobacco by putting their buttons all over their shoes, pants, backpacks, etc.

At the end of the day, the students take away a new-found knowledge of the "evils of tobacco" and truly understand why it is evil. Kick Butts Day was a success!

— Vigor Lam, Columbus Chapter  
April 16, 2007

### Newsletter and Media Supports

Editorial Development: Jennifer Brindle, Joseph Hau, Office Management: May Chen and Staff Members, Contributing Writers: Statewide Interns and Members, Design and Graphics: JacQ Davis, Media Review: Surendra Bir Adhikari, PhD and Beth Schieber, OTPF, Funded By: The Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation, Advisory & Distribution: State and Regional Advisors.

## Project 1200: A Quest for 1200 Reasons Not to Use Tobacco

On March 17, 2007, Akron and Cleveland AAYAT hosted a campaign drive to collect 1200 personal reasons not to smoke during *An Afternoon in Asia* at the Akron-Summit County Public Library. The interns from Cleveland AAYAT created a display about the harmful chemicals in tobacco called *What Are You Really Smoking?* and the Akron interns created an interactive *Myth or Fact* game to debunk Big Tobacco myths. While we didn't reach our goal of 1200, nearly 600 personal reasons for not smoking were collected from participants at the event. *An Afternoon in Asia* was sponsored by Asian Services In Action, the Akron-Summit County Public Library, the Knight Foundation, National City Bank, University Park Alliance, and Summa Health System.

## Kick Butts Day Campaign 2007: 50 A Day!

On March 28, 2007, AAYAT joined with stand and the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids to host at statewide campaign for the 12th Annual Kick Butts Day. AAYAT members passed out over 5000 50 A Day stickers, buttons and lollipops for the campaign throughout the end of March and beginning of April at area schools and events. Several AAYAT chapters also created memorial displays and activities recognizing the 50 Ohioans and 1200 people who die daily nationwide from tobacco-related illnesses.

## Helpful Resources

- stand — [www.standonline.org](http://www.standonline.org)
- Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL) — [www.appealforcommunities.org](http://www.appealforcommunities.org)
- truth campaign — [www.thetruth.com](http://www.thetruth.com)
- Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids — [www.tobaccofreekids.org](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org)
- Ignite — [www.ignitegeneration.org](http://www.ignitegeneration.org)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — [www.cdc.gov/tobacco](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco)
- World Health Organization — [www.who.int/topics/tobacco/en](http://www.who.int/topics/tobacco/en)