

**Kimberly Cantoni is the reigning Miss Liberty representing the five boroughs. She will spend her year of service promoting her platform T.E.A.C.H., Tobacco Education Awareness for Children's Health. She will also be an advocate for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, the national platform of the Miss America Organization. .**





March 2011

March 1st was a busy day for me. I started at IHOP for the sixth annual National Pancake Day to support the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Since 2006, IHOP has raised nearly \$8 million to support children's hospitals throughout the country. Guests enjoyed a free stack of pancakes and in return were asked to give a donation to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. This year the goal was to raise \$2.3 million. Well, we exceeded that goal and raised \$2.5 million!



Later that evening, I attended the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Kickoff Celebration at St. John's University in the Kelleher Center. The kick-off is a way to prepare for the Relay for Life event. Invited guests were greeted by the local Relay for Life Volunteer Planning Committee and learned how to participate in the goal to eliminate cancer. Relay for Life is a nationwide movement that provides support to those affected by cancer.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2011

My first T.E.A.C.H. assembly was conducted at Public School 44. I spoke to over 250 fourth and fifth graders about my platform. These kids came to the assembly ready and eager to learn about the dangers of smoking and why it is important to never start the habit. They even prepared great questions for me about tobacco use. It was adorable when they walked into the gymnasium and saw me standing by the microphone. The kids were so excited to see me that they called me their own Miss America. Each student walked away with a T.E.A.C.H. folder, a helpful reminder of my message.



March 23, 2011



Kick Butts Day was a great way to begin my reign as Miss Liberty. I traveled to Amityville, Long Island to celebrate the sixteenth annual event sponsored by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism that empowers youth to speak up and take action against tobacco use at more than 1,000 events from coast to coast. Students from schools across the country hold different events and activities that call attention to the problems caused by Big Tobacco and its attempts to market to youth. I was invited to the Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School as the guest speaker for this national event. Working with the North Shore LIJ Health System's Center for Tobacco Control, I had the opportunity to promote my platform T.E.A.C.H. to about 220 students. The gymnasium was transformed into the Kick Butts Day Carnival filled with anti-smoking booths, hand made posters by the students, and even a pig's lungs (to show what happens to a smoker's lungs after years of tobacco exposure). I was in charge of the "What's In A Cigarette" booth where I educated the students on some of the 4,000 toxins found inside a cigarette. I want to thank Patricia Folan, RN and Daniel Jacobsen, RN for inviting me participate in this event with the Center for Tobacco Control.

