

# St. Luke's MSTI Receives TFIA Community Partners Hero Award



Idaho *Tar Wars*® Statewide Coordinator, Peggy Drzayich, presents the 2015 *TFIA Community Partners Hero Award* to St. Luke's MSTI employees (l-r) Melanie Gonzales, Dawn Callahan and Vicky Jekich.

The St. Luke's MSTI Community Cancer Education & Outreach team was recognized for their dedication and commitment to educating 5<sup>th</sup> graders about being tobacco-free. In 2015, the team presented to over 2,000 students in 39 schools across the MSTI service area. The award was presented at the annual Tobacco Free Idaho Alliance (TFIA) meeting on January 13, 2016.

The *Tar Wars* program is presented by local volunteers and is offered to schools across the United States. The program focuses on educating students about tobacco use and prevention, including the reasons people smoke; short and long term affects; the cost impact; and emerging products. Participating students can also win prizes in a statewide poster contest. *Tar Wars* was developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians and is coordinated locally by the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians.

