

For Immediate Release

Contact: Rebecca Parrish, Partners for Active Living

864-598-9638

rparrish@active-living.org

Four Schools win Golden Shoe Awards for Outstanding Efforts

October's International Walk to School Day was a huge success in Spartanburg County with 58 schools participating in the event, the highest participation rate for a county in the state of South Carolina.

Thirteen schools submitted applications for the Chartwells Golden Shoe award, and the competition was fierce. Evaluation criteria included parent, school, and community involvement, school activities incorporated into the events, and ability to use the event as a catalyst to establish sustainable physical activity programs in the school.

First place winner is **Mary H. Wright Elementary**, from Spartanburg District 7, who collaborated with neighborhood associations and community partners to host their "Eat Right, Think Right, Play Right at Mary H. Wright" themed event, a walk to school followed by a pep rally to celebrate being the recipient of a 2014 Fuel up to Play 60 Grant through the NFL. Special guest speakers included Former NFL Detroit Lion, Chicago Bear, and Dallas Cowboy defensive lineman Landon Cohen and members of the Marcus Lattimore Foundation. City of Spartanburg's Mayor Pro Tem and Public Safety Officers discussed the importance of pedestrian safety with students, staff, and families. Mary H. Wright Elementary will receive the top prize of \$500, and Safe Kids of Spartanburg will provide incentives and giveaways for their 2015 Walk to School Day event. Principal Verotta Kennedy already has big plans for their winnings, to include supporting Girls on the Run, Little League Flag Football, Soccer for Success, in-class physical activity stations and equipment and blender equipment to make fruit and vegetable smoothies served by Chartwells.

Second place winner is **Boiling Springs Intermediate** of District Two, who will be awarded \$300. Boiling Springs Intermediate's Hero Theme incorporated Walk to School Day with the month of "Fit"ober, participating in Subway's Fit For Life and SPARK's Challenge programs. The school also used the Walk to School Day event to kick off their Boosterthon fundraiser and ended their month by choosing 60 students to attend a USA track and field event in Columbia, South Carolina. Their event also included discussions with Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office on neighborhood safety and "Stranger Danger", especially around Halloween.

Third place winner, **Lone Oak Elementary** of District Six, receives an award of \$200 for their creative use of activities and partners like the USC Upstate's freshman class, U101, and Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. This year walk to school day ignited Lone Oak's "100 Mile Club", a program led by Michelle Obama through the active schools acceleration project. It will last throughout the entire school year and will culminate with an awards ceremony at the end of the school year, and they hope to have many students and teachers reach the "100 mile club" and be recognized at the award ceremony.

The Golden Shoe Breakthrough Award, a prize recognizing the participation of a first-year Walk to School Day participant school, is awarded to **Spartanburg School District Four**. The district receives

“golden shoes”, \$100.00 and certificate to display for inaugural Walk to School Day events at **Woodruff Primary School, Woodruff Elementary School, and Woodruff Middle School.**

The Golden Shoe Awards are sponsored by Chartwells School Dining Services, Safe Kids of Spartanburg, and Partners for Active Living.

The next International Walk to School Day is scheduled for October 7, 2015.

##