



October Monthly Activity Report

October 5th was International Walk to School Day, iWalk. The Resource Center registered over 122 school participants.

Specifically in October, the Georgia SRTS Resource Center team continued planning for the upcoming Pedestrian Safety Education Training; provided travel plan assistance; continued various marketing initiatives in preparation iWalk events; and continued to expand outreach efforts to grow relationships with current and prospective partners.

School Outreach Coordinator Activity Highlights

As of the end of October, the Outreach team had secured **384** schools as Partners and brought in **234** Friends of the Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center. In October, Outreach conducted 148 meetings, gave seven presentations, held four trainings, participated in 126 events across the state, and implemented 145 programs.

Coastal Georgia (Patti Sistrunk, SOC)

West Chatham Elementary, Chatham County (Gold-level Partner)

West Chatham Elementary continued to shine as a Gold Partner throughout October. A week after the International Walk to School Day Events at the school, the Health and Wellness Committee gathered for a meeting to discuss possible grant options for health and nutrition initiatives. SOC Patti Sistrunk was invited to be a part of that committee to provide input on bicycle and pedestrian strategies. The school is pursuing the Fuel Up To Play 60 Program. The program is sponsored by the Southeast United Dairy Farmers and the NFL (and is a Friend of the Resource Center.) Additionally, on the Friday before Halloween, West Chatham Elementary invited Safe Routes to School to have a display at the Fall Festival held in the City of Pooler. Most of the over 2000 children at the event were interested in candy and costumes, but many parents stopped to learn about Safe Routes, and ask questions about crossing guards and pedestrian safety. Dressed as a crossing guard for the Halloween event, Patti handed out a handful of blinkies for students in dark costumes and encouraged parents to take information sheets.

Claxton Middle School, Evans County (Bronze-level Partner)

Claxton Middle School Principal Dr. Diane Holland invited Patti Sistrunk to present and display at the school on October 26th. The school hosted the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education's 2011 bus tour, which included over 75 educators, business leaders, politicians, administrators and education advocates from around the state and locally. Many area leaders also joined the 8-school tour, to observe local success stories. Claxton Middle School excels at teaching under-privileged middle-school children, and Principal Holland felt it was important to showcase information about pedestrian education, travel planning assistance (Claxton is a Travel Plan selected school for 2011), and safety. Over 50 Safe Routes to School calendars were taken by attendees. It was a great outreach opportunity and chance to support



Safe Routes successes at Claxton. The following Monday, October 31st, more than 350 Claxton Middle School students headed out for their bi-annual school walk in the community, to promote health and safety. The entire student population, faculty, and staff walked (facing traffic), and many students asked organizers if they could do the walk every week!



**Sally D. Meadows Elementary School, Vidalia City Schools
(New Partner)**

Sally D. Meadows Elementary School in Vidalia serves second through fifth graders school in the heart of the city. The school serves the entire 2-5 public school population for the city. The school has over 800 students, but only a dozen walk or bike on a regular basis, despite there being nearly 60 students who live within one mile of the school. On September 29th Patti Sistrunk met with Assistant Principal, Henry Gardner, and SafeKids Toombs Coordinator, Bonnie Brantley, to assess current conditions. Mr. Gardner is responsible for monitoring departures of students who walk and bicycle he was particularly concerned about student safety during dismissal, because of heavy vehicular traffic and poor area infrastructure.

D. L. Rainer Elementary School, Camden County (New Partner)

The Coastal Region welcomed David L. Rainer Elementary School in Camden County as a new partner in October. Patti Sistrunk met with Safe Kids Kingsland Coordinator, Charles Roney, and school Principal, Deborah Milstead, at the school on October 20th. David L. Ranier is the largest elementary school in Camden County, with more than 600 students. Principal Milstead was interested in involving her school with the Resource Center, recognizing that more children could walk and bicycle to school if conditions were improved; approximately 30 children walk regularly now. Vehicle traffic for the school's pick up line can typically block the roadway in front of the school to thru traffic. The school intends to work with Safe Kids Kingsland and the Resource Center to provide opportunities for safe bicycle and pedestrian activities.

iWalk Events

Blessed Sacrament Catholic, Chatham County (Bronze-level Partner)

Blessed Sacrament School's Fresh Outlook Committee proudly sponsored local Walk To School Events again this year. The school hosts two walk events each year: the first was held on October 5th and the second will be held on April 17th. This month's event had participants meeting at 7:15AM at Atlantic and 44th Street, to walk down 44th Street to the School. This year's event was a tremendous success with hundreds of students, parents and staff participating!

**St. Frances Cabrini Catholic School,
Chatham County (Bronze-level Partner)**

St. Frances Cabrini School hosted its first ever Walk to School Day event on Wednesday, October 5th. Organizers wrote the following on the WalkToSchool.org web site when they registered: *"St. Frances Cabrini Catholic School is very proud to be celebrating Walk to School Day for the very first time. We are happy to be partnering with the GA SRTS Program, the Savannah Sand Gnats Baseball Team (2011 Southern Division Champs of the South Atlantic League), and the Savannah Storm Basketball Team to provide our "celebrity cross-*

walkers," assisting the students as they cross the two intersections that border the school grounds. At each of these intersections, the student participants will be given a juice box & a piece of fruit by one of the players. Prior to our event, all students will receive pedestrian/bike safety education." Students, parents, and volunteers met at a nearby church on the morning of October 5th and walked together to school. Local professional sports teams participated to escort the children, including 'Gnate the Gnat' from the Savannah Sand Gnat Baseball Team, and members of the Savannah Storm basketball team. Nearly half of the school's students participated! *A Savannah Storm basketball player leads children toward St. Frances Cabrini Catholic School*



Freedom Park School on Fort Gordon Army Base, Richmond County (Bronze-level Partner)

Freedom Park School has a great Walk to School event every year. Ms. Chris Jasak of the school's PTA organizes the event annually and registered with walktoschool.org for this year's event, held October 5th. Freedom Park has about 1000 students in grades PK-8, and estimates are that nearly half of the students walk or bicycle on a regular basis. Almost all of the children at the school live on base and within a short distance. On Walk to School Day, students "marched" to school, parents participated, and even the bus-riders took part during their walk to bus stops. The school recruited the help of Fort Gordon soldiers who greeted students with incentives and encouragement along the school routes and at bus stops. The adult participants enjoyed snacks and coffee at the school. The Resource Center provided materials and incentives to the school, and the organizers at the school had other contributions from business partners.

Lewiston Elementary, Columbia County (Gold-level Partner)

Lewiston hosted another exciting Walk to School Day event on October 5th. The school's PE staff, led by Anne Streets, champions the Safe Routes program at the school and encourages walking and bicycle safety. On the date of the event, students walked together around the neighborhood around the school. Local law enforcement came out to reiterate safety messages to the students and escorted students for safety.

West Chatham Elementary, Chatham County (Gold-level Partner)

West Chatham Elementary was this year's International Walk to School Day 'Media Event School' in Chatham County. Approximately 600 students and over 150 parents, school staff, and volunteers participated at this Safe Routes Resource Center Gold Partner event. The school was chosen as this year's Media Event School because it is very active in Safe Routes to School efforts and was named the 2010-2011 Outstanding School Partner.

Safe Kids Savannah, Fed Ex, and other local organizations helped to organize the event and staff it with volunteers. Safe Kids also provided incentives and educational support. Alison Gramza, Safe Kids Coordinator, presented the students with a safety assembly during the week prior to Walk to School



Day, and on the day of the event, students and parents walked to school from two park & walk sites (or their homes if they were close enough), and received incentives when they arrived. Bused and morning care students also had the opportunity to walk on campus and on the neighboring middle school campus. The school PTA provided coffee for parents and volunteers, and a photo session with fire and FedEx trucks, Safe Kids van, banners and signs, Safety Patrol, and second graders rounded out the event. A press conference featured the official presentation of WCES's 2010-2011 Partner of the Year award.



(Photo above: Second graders, staff, volunteers, and city employee gathered for a photograph after iWalk events at WCES.)

South Georgia (Nykia Burke, SOC)

Midtown Columbus International Walk-to-School Day

Midtown Columbus partner schools including Brewer, Clubview, Davis, and Rigdon Road Elementary Schools, Hannan Academy, Marshall and Richards Middle Schools, St. Elmo Center for the Gifted, and Wynnton Arts Academy participated in International Walk-to-School Day. This community-wide event was supported by School Outreach Coordinator Nykia, Midtown Inc, SafeKids Columbus, the River Valley Regional Commission, Columbus Police Department, local businesses, and parent volunteers. Thousands of students and their families walked and rolled to school across the Midtown Columbus area. Nykia continues to assist in the development of SRTS programs in the Midtown Columbus area.

iWalk Event

Southeast Elementary School-International Walk-to-School Day, Valdosta

Southeast Elementary School in Valdosta participated in the annual International Walk-to-School Day on October 5th. School Outreach Coordinator, Nykia Burke, assisted in planning for the event and provided incentive materials for the 200+ participants. Southeast ES's champion was invited to participate in an interview at a regional news station in Albany, GA concerning their annual I-walk program and participation in SRTS.

Central Georgia (Sandie Parker, SOC)

Pedestrian Safety Education Training, Bibb County, Appling Middle School (Gold-level Partner)

Appling Middle School in Bibb County hosted a Pedestrian Safety Education Training workshop for 18 attendees within the Central Georgia territory. The majority of participants were from schools that had been awarded infrastructure dollars; among those represented were Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, and Henry Counties. Representatives from Bibb County Board



Education and Henry County Board of Education also attended the workshop. Outcomes from the workshop include: David Gowan, of the Bibb County Board of Education plans to take the school bus safety lesson plan to the transportation department for implantation; Leslie Cheatwood, of the Henry County Board of Education, intends to share the workshop materials with all partner elementary schools; and the many Physical Education teachers in attendance expressed intentions to share the lesson plans with the school and get increased participation from the school staff to interrelate all subjects taught.

Glanton Elementary, Coweta County (Bronze -level Partner)

Glanton Elementary, which became a partner at the start of the 2011 school year, has been busily working to make its Safe Routes to school partnership a community-wide program throughout Grantsville, Georgia. Lori Mayes and Becki Kelli asked Outreach Coordinator, Sandie Parker, to help them brainstorm and lay out their program for the remainder of the school year. The school has committed to participating in International Walk to School day and Georgia Walk to School day, as well as taking part in student tally week and carrying out the Walk and Talk lunches. Glanton's Physical education teacher will be attending the upcoming pedestrian safety training event in Columbus Georgia.

iWalk Events

Oak Hill Middle School, Baldwin County (Silver-level Partner)

This year's International Walk to School Day Media Event school in Baldwin County was held on October 5th. Over 1200 students, parents, school staff, and volunteers and members of Live Healthy Baldwin and students from GMC

College participated. School Champion and 8th grade Principal Mark Antly along with SOC Sandie Parker helped organize the event. A student from each grade was asked to make a small speech at the beginning of the Walk to School event, describing why we need to walk to school and walk at school. Students walked a mile and half around the campus and received different incentives from the Resource Center. Students also carried buckets while walking



around the campus, to pick up trash along the way. The local TV station and newspaper published several articles about the event, including one shown in the link below:

<http://milledgeville.13wmaz.com/news/59488-oak-hill-middle-celebrates-international-walk-school-day>

Fairview Elementary School, Henry County (Silver-level Partner)

Fairview Elementary teachers combined Walk to School Month with their physical fitness activities. The children were allowed to exercise within the building, in the classrooms, and in the gym with P.E. teacher, Coach Davis. In addition, he required the children to walk laps within his classroom.



Teachers took their classes on walking trips around the bus track daily, and during morning announcements, have started to emphasize the importance of walking daily. Fairview is in the process of establishing a girls' walking club, and hopefully this will transfer over into students being willing to walk to school.

Hampton Elementary School, Henry County (Silver-level Partner)

Hampton Elementary participated in its first International Walk to School with much success. School Champion and Principal, Debra Collins, created excitement among students and informed parents by sending home weekly announcement fliers that she downloaded from the SRTS Resource Center's website. Parents who walked their children to school got to enjoy an Italian Style Café onsite that served doughnuts and coffee to parents after escorting their children to the classroom.

Red Oak Elementary, Henry County (Silver-level Partner)

Red Oak sent home brochures and left voice messages for all of the parents, reminding them of the upcoming event. Principal Bulls met all the students at the end of the sidewalk to congratulate them on walking to school and gave each student a sticker. Approximately 90 children and their parents participated in the event, and all seemed to enjoy it.

Glanton Elementary School, Coweta County (Bronze-level Partner)

PreK-5th grades participated in International Walk to school month and kicked off Red Ribbon Week with a 1/2 mile walk from the school. Each classroom created a banner against drugs and dressed the part of their banner message. City of Grantsville Fire Department and local Police Department representatives participated in the even by sounding the sirens at the start of the walk and blocking traffic for the walk. Local city council member, Johnny Cooks, rode his bike and led the walk. The students later presented their banners to be judged by local city officials during a pep-rally in the school lunchroom.



Over 350 kids participated in Glanton Elementary school International Walk to School Day.

Metro Atlanta (Nykia Burke, SOC)

Pedestrian Safety Education Training, City of Decatur, Renfroe Middle School (Bronze-level Partner)

Outreach coordinated the Metro Atlanta Child Pedestrian Safety Education Workshop at Renfroe Middle School in the City of Decatur, on October 20th. With approximately 25 training participants, including parents, educators, and local community organizations, the curriculum has proven to be an excellent opportunity for increased partner participation and program implementation. The outreach staff continues to receive positive feedback about the curriculum itself and has gotten requests for additional workshops in the future.

iWalk Events

City of Decatur International Walk-to-School Day



On October 5th, outreach coordinator Nykia attended the International Walk and Roll to school day event at Renfroe Middle School. This bronze level partner school was just one of the seven City Schools in Decatur that participated in International Walk to School Day; others included 4/5 Academy, Clairemont ES, Glenwood Academy, Oakhurst ES, St. Thomas More Catholic School, and Winnona Park ES. With support from Decatur Active Living, the City of Decatur, parent champions, school staff, and volunteers, these schools had over 1,000 walk and bike participants combined. Nykia assisted with the planning and set-up of these events and provided incentive materials for each school. Nykia also provided informational materials and support for the Decatur area pre-International walk and roll to school day pep rally on October 4th.

Callaway ES (Bronze-level Partner)-International Walk-to-School Day

Callaway ES held its first ever Walk-to-School Day event on Friday, October 7th. School outreach coordinator Nykia Burke and Safe Kids Clayton County coordinated efforts to support Callaway ES's events. This included "safety week" and the health and safety fair – both held in the week leading up to International Walk-to-School Day. Additionally, students were encouraged to participate in poster contests and safety game design competitions. More than 200 students and their families walked to school, many utilizing a predetermined park-and-walk site at nearby Kendrick MS. Additional supporters of the event included Clayton County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Heatley; Clayton County Police and Fire Departments; FedEx volunteers; and other parent volunteers.

Northwest Georgia (Alicia Hatcher, SOC)

Floyd Middle School, Cobb County (Bronze-level Partner)

The Cobb Department of Transportation recently created a new driveway entrance for Floyd Middle School, including a traffic light, visible crosswalks, and signs to increase pedestrian safety. The new entrance is also contributing to smoother vehicular traffic flow in the area. Floyd Middle School

students, Chase Clements, Michael Hamm, Devin Lucas, and Omar Medrano shared words of appreciation for the new school entrance during an event held Friday, October 7th.

Attendees included Cobb Commissioner, Woody Thompson; Cobb & Douglas Public Health Dpt. District Health Promotion Director, Cathy Wendholt-McDade; Educator, Amy Hoffman; Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Manager, Sarah Knight; SRTS School Outreach

Coordinator, Alicia Hatcher; Lifelong Mableton Manager, Cheryl Mayerick; Area 1 Assistant Superintendent, Ed Thayer; Health and Physical Education Supervisor, Mark Anderson; Campus Officer, Nina Reber; and Floyd Principal, Teresa Hargrett.



Pedestrian Safety Education Training, Cobb County Kincaid Elementary (Gold-level Partner)

On October 19th, the Resource Center kicked off the Pedestrian Safety Education Training series at Kincaid Elementary in Marietta with 13



attendees. Jane Abbott, former PE teacher and instructor, conducted the training by first going over the development of the curriculum and then going over a few lesson plans. Remarks from attendees were positive; attendees enjoyed the training and will be using the lessons in their own schools. Attendees also loved the binders and breakdown of lessons by grade-levels. Overall, the day was a success and a great kick-off to the training series.

iWalk Events

Marietta Middle School, Marietta City Schools (Bronze-level Partner)

MMS, a member of the healthy schools program, joined pedestrians around the world Wednesday, October 5th, as they celebrated International Walk to School Day. Participants included several MMS teachers and nearly 100 members of the middle school Club HOPE, a group dedicated to promoting healthy habits and preventing obesity. The trip included a total of 2.6 miles along Polk Street, with a stop for breakfast at Chic-Fil-A, a Marietta Partner in Education. It proved to be a morning of food, fitness, and fun for all!

Roan Elementary, Dalton City Schools (Bronze-level Partner)

Outreach attended Roan Elementary on Walk to School Day on October 5th with 200 students and many parents participating. The week prior to the event, School Champion, Brenda Houser, distributed samples of incentive items to teachers to show students what they would receive for walking. Mrs. Hauser, along with other teachers, led four Walking School Buses to the school where students received incentive items upon arrival. In an effort to promote usage of reflective safety vests provided by the NW GA Regional Commission last year, students received two items if they were wearing a vest and one item if not. It was a great morning at Roan!



Kincaid Elementary, Cobb County (Gold-level Partner)

For International Walk to School Day, Kincaid had 69 walkers! This reflected a significant increase over the previous week's kick-off WOW (Walk on Wednesday) that had 38 walkers.

Thirty-two walkers from last week joined us for International Walk to School, with 37 "new" participants engaged for the first time this school year! Two adult volunteers, assisted by two student volunteers (one Kincaid student and one middle school Kincaid alumnus), greeted the walkers and their parents, offered water, awarded beads (which could be redeemed at the end of the seasonal session for prizes), distributed green tickets (which were entered into a random prize drawings), and allowed the walkers to choose prizes sent from Safe Routes to School. It was a great morning!

Northeast Georgia (Andy Pittman, SOC)

Resource Center Presentation at the 2011 Georgia Bike Summit



On Saturday October 8th, Andy had the opportunity to present a breakout session at the Annual Georgia



Bike Summit, at the University of Georgia in Athens. The Bike Summit is held every year in the Fall and is an opportunity for bicycling advocates from all over the state to come together for a weekend of training, networking, and education. Andy was introduced by Decatur Commissioner, Fred Boykin, and gave a presentation to the audience focused on the Resource Center, our efforts and successes across the state of Georgia, and the general benefits of the SRTS program in their communities.

With the assistance of Doug Joiner from the National Partnership, Andy led the group through an exercise that allowed the participants to create a SRTS plan of action for an actual school located in metro-Atlanta. The participants were first presented with a profile of the school and community; they were then given a map and asked to create a quick SRTS Travel Plan using the 5 E's. Because of the strength in audience and the enthusiasm for SRTS, the session lasted well over the allotted time, and the audience chose to keep discussing their ideas and solutions to the barriers facing the school well after the session had ended. Included in the audience were Mayor Wood from the City of Roswell, Regional Commissions, the City of Columbus City Planner, and multiple representatives from various bike safety advocates.

Pedestrian Safety Education Training, Clarke County Timothy Road Elementary (Gold-level Partner)

On Thursday October 27th, the Resource Center hosted Northeast Georgia's Pedestrian Train the Trainer Workshop at Timothy Rd Elementary School in Athens. Representatives from Clarke County, Barrow County, Gwinnett County, and Hall County were in attendance for the course. Participants included P.E. teachers, Regional Commission planners, and representatives from the Clarke County Department of Public Health. Each participant was eager to take what they had learned back to their own community and share the material with their classrooms and their peers. Andy Pittman is planning to distribute this Education piece to other P.E. teachers and advocates who were unable to attend on Thursday

iWalk Events

Greene County Walk to School Day

On Friday October 7th, Greene County celebrated International Walk to School Day by having every student in the county participate by walking or biking to school. In coordination with the Resource Center and local law enforcement, Superintendent Barbara Davis spearheaded the campaign to show the county's support for a healthier Georgia. Over 2,000 students participated in the event, which featured walking school buses led by teachers at both Union Point Elementary and Greensboro Elementary. This was Greene County's second year participating in International Walk to School Day, and both the event and the practice of promoting walking to school have become



priorities countywide. The Resource Center continues to support Greene County with promotion of the event, incentive items for continued walking, and providing the schools with Educational materials.

There were multiple stories published about the successes in Northeast Georgia during October, particularly highlighting Safe Routes to



School; some are shown in the links below:

http://www.greene.k12.ga.us/Portals/Greene/District/_Robyn/GC%20students%20and%20staff%20observe%20Walk%20to%20School.pdf

Summerour Middle School (Silver- level Partner) Norcross, Ga

http://www.norcrossga.net/municipal/article.php?Article_ID=370
http://norcross.patch.com/blog_posts/summerour-middle-schools-2nd-walking-school-bus

Loganville-Grayson Support

<http://loganville.patch.com/articles/tomorrow-is-international-walk-to-school-day>

Cornelia Elementary, Habersham County (Gold- level Partner)



SRTS Marketing (Toole Design Group)

During October, the marketing team focused on key deliverables in each of two current tasks:

Task Order 4: Program Management and Staffing

Provided program oversight and management
Staffed the Resource Center telephone hotline

Task Order 5: Marketing and Outreach

Provided program management and oversight
Updated Resource Center web site including training of team on updating site



Georgia

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Continued work on education and marketing material
Revised Planning Guide
Developed and posted Tally Week video for distribution

Task Order 6: Pedestrian Safety Education

Continued training planning and preparation including:
Communication with Resource Center PM and Outreach team about training locations, timeframes,
and registration
Updated online registration



Georgia

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION