



Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center Monthly Progress Report September 2014

The Resource Center has 420 Partners. Six new Partners signed on in September. Included with this report is a complete Partner list. [Click here](#) for more information about partnerships. A map is provided at the right. Green dots indicate Partners. Outreach staff supported five events, held 125 meetings, and gave eight presentations. The Resource Center has 286 Friends.

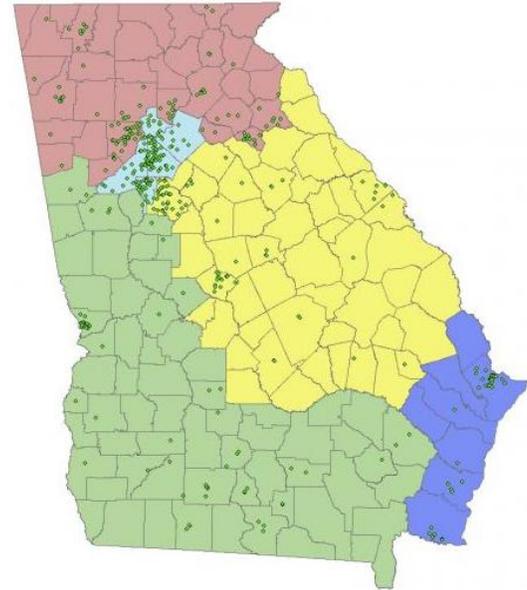
Outreach

Metro Atlanta Territory – Nichole Hollis, School Outreach Coordinator (SOC)

Nichole currently serves 130 partners in Metro Atlanta. In September, Nichole signed on **Druid Hills Middle School** in Dekalb County, GA as a new partner with **Safe Routes to School**. She held planning assistance meetings with new and existing partners for International Walk to School Day. Nichole also focused on collecting student travel tally data and teaching safety lessons at schools in Dekalb County.

On September 29th, Nichole conducted a **NHTSA presentation** at **Laurel Ridge Elementary School** during their physical education class. She taught Kindergarten and first grade students about the fundamentals of being a safe pedestrian. She also promoted the school's International Walk to School Day event during their class.

Ocee Elementary School in Johns Creek, GA held a school movie night with over 720 people in attendance. Nichole distributed over 100 pencils and magnets about Safe Routes to School. She was also able to encourage families to walk on International Walk to School Day. At the event, students had the opportunity to be physically active through dancing before the movie started. The photo to the right shows the large turnout.



Nichole presented at **Indian Creek Elementary School's** parent breakfast on September 26th. There were over 100 parents that attended the event and received information about **Safe Routes to School** and the **Dekalb County Board of Health**. She gave information about the school's International Walk to School Day event and answer questions about the purpose of walking to school on this day. Indian Creek Elementary School has the highest number of walkers in Dekalb County. They have over 900 students that walk to school daily.

In October, Nichole plans to continue encouraging schools to hold walking events for International Walk to School Day. She also plans to promote the travel plan assistance application to schools.

East Central Territory - Taki Smith, School Outreach Coordinator

Taki currently supports 81 Partners in the East Central Territory. During September, Taki met with School Partners, presented to Friend organizations, updated the Resource Center Facebook page, composed the SRTS Wayfinding Newsletter, and signed on two new School Partners to the Resource Center.

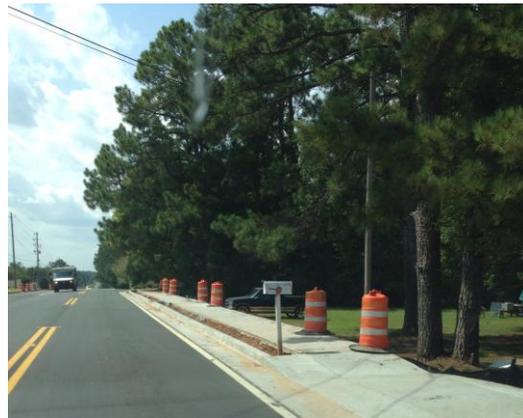
As a result of the Bibb County Leaders in Action (LIA) meeting that she presented to in August, Taki coordinated meetings with potential School Partners. On September 3rd, Taki traveled to Bibb County and met with **Union Elementary School** and **Hartley Elementary School**, and both schools signed up as new Partners with the Resource Center. The schools have both registered for International Walk to School Day.

On September 18th, Taki presented to the **Newton County Theme School**, Wellness Committee in Covington, Georgia. The Wellness Committee is comprised of teachers, the school nurse, and the nutrition coordinator. Taki introduced the SRTS program to the committee and provided ideas for their upcoming Walk at School Day event. Taki will also assist the school as needed, with the Fuel Up to Play 60 grant application process. The school is excited about participating in the upcoming walking events and are already planning a Turkey Trot walk in November.

During September, Taki traveled to various counties in her territory and observed that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) infrastructure projects were underway for two of her schools, just in time for their IWalk events. **Lewiston Elementary School**, located in Columbia County and **Fairview Elementary School**, located in Newton County are both eager to celebrate their new sidewalks and are planning a ribbon cutting ceremony during their IWalk events in October. See photos below.



Lewiston Elementary School, Columbia County



Fairview Elementary School, Newton County

In October, Taki will focus on continuing to collect Student Travel Tallies, attend IWalk events, provide Partners with resources, encourage Partners to apply for travel plan assistance, and travel to different counties throughout her territory to meet with School Partners, present SRTS to community stakeholders, and keep schools and champions abreast of upcoming SRTS events and program offerings.

North Territory – Alicia Hatcher, Sr. School Outreach Coordinator

Alicia attended the **East Cobb PTA Priority Fair** on September 9th in Marietta. Jennifer Saboura, School Champion at **Mountain View Elementary** and Health and Wellness Chair for the East Cobb PTA Council, invited Alicia to attend and have a table with SRTS information. Alicia was also able to give a brief presentation to a group of fifteen PTA members during a break-out session. Alicia spoke with ten schools in Cobb County and got contact information to hopefully sign on new Partners.

Davis Elementary in Cobb County is the newest School Partner in North Georgia! Alicia met Katie White, School Champion, while at the East Cobb PTA Priority Fair and followed up with a meeting the next week. Davis Elementary is starting a Wellness Committee and was looking for activities to promote health and wellness at the school and thought SRTS was a perfect fit and exciting way to kick off the new committee. The school will participate in their first walking event on International Walk to School Day and plans to participate in Georgia Walk to School Day in the spring.

Alicia led the bi-annual **Cobb County School Champions meeting** on September 24th. Representatives from **Mountain View Elementary, Cheatham Hill Elementary, Powder Springs Elementary, Floyd Middle, and East Side Elementary** attended. Alicia gave updates from the Resource Center and encouraged them all to schedule a time to complete their Student Travel Tallies, which they now have all either completed or have scheduled. Each School Champion shared their plans for International Walk to School Day and their SRTS program for the school year. Alicia also provided incentive items to all schools in attendance.

Southwest Territory – Chelsea Carter, School Outreach Coordinator

Two new partners joined the partnership program bringing the total in the Southwest region to 68.

- **Twin Oaks Elementary School:** Located in Leesburg, Twin Oaks Elementary School will adopt Safe Routes to School education. The school hosts an annual run in their parking lot; Chelsea is working with the principal to involve Safe Routes education for those students who will be in attendance with their parents. Students will be taught about parking lot safety as well as basic traffic safety and walking/biking safety.
- **Crisp County Primary School:** The closure of Blackshear Trails Elementary made way for the new school Crisp County Primary School. Principal Michael Parker is eager to be implementing Safe Routes to School, having already scheduled a PTO presentation and hoping to have some kind of International Walk to School Activity in October.

Chelsea delivered five presentations in September.

- **Coffee County Board of Education Office:** Chelsea presented to all of Coffee County's principals and assistant principals. There are no Safe Routes to School Partners in Coffee County, but connections were made to both schools and advocacy groups as a result of the presentation.
- **Midtown, Columbus Champion Presentation:** At the annual Midtown Champion Meeting for International Walk to School Day, Chelsea presented ideas for IWalk.
- **Valdosta Channel 17 Interview:** Chelsea interviewed with a local Valdosta television station to promote IWalk, Safe Routes to School as well as recognize the schools in Valdosta participating in both Safe Routes and Iwalk.
- **SafeKids Lowndes County Car Seat Check:** While **SafeKids Lowndes County** educated parents and guardian on Car Seat Safety, Chelsea entertained and educated children on parking lot safety, including how to properly get in and out of the car/car seat.

- **Crisp County Primary School PTO Meeting:** New partner **Crisp County Primary School** invited Chelsea to present to the PTO group on basic walking safety, touching largely on walking safety during the Halloween holiday. She presented to both parents and students.

Crawford County Elementary School and **Crawford County Middle School** were awarded infrastructure funding from Georgia Department of Transportation. Those sidewalks are currently under construction. Before their meeting with Chelsea, the schools were under the impression that the sidewalks were being provided by the county. Now that administration is involved and better informed of their GDOT infrastructure grant, they are working with Chelsea to include SRTS activities in the school calendar.

Throughout September, Chelsea has been meeting with and coordinating with schools and community Friends to plan events. Upcoming events include:

- **Hahira Honeybee Festival:** Chelsea will help gather information for teachers and students for the educational walk through of the Festival on October 3rd, as well as have a booth during the all-day event October 4th.
- **Valdosta Radio Interview 92.1:** International Walk to School Day, Safe Routes to School, Bus Safety Week, Halloween Safety, and Crossing Guard Safety are all topics that will be covered during an interview with a local Valdosta Radio Station.
- **Chattahoochee County Ribbon Cutting Event:** As part of their International Walk to School Event, Chattahoochee County Educational Center will celebrate their sidewalks, made possible by Safe Routes to School. Many parents, officers, and elected officials will be in attendance.
- **Garrison Pilcher Elementary School**, as well as other Thomas County Schools, plan to have Chelsea attend PE classes to discuss walking and Halloween Safety in October.

Coastal Territory – Patti Sistrunk, Sr. School Outreach Coordinator, PM

Patti maintains 37 school Partners in the Coastal Georgia Territory.

Patti assisted with Friend Partner **Safe Kids Savannah's** Second Annual Youth Triathlon on Saturday, September 6th. The event drew more than 85 children to swim, run, and bike. Safe Routes to School provided bicycle safety information and bookmarks for the children and their parents. Patti was on hand along the bicycle route to support. Leading up to the event, Patti promoted registration to school partners throughout the region.

On September 18th, Patti met with Shauntea Walker from the City of Brunswick to discuss technical assistance opportunities offered by the Resource Center. She works in the Community Development office at the city and was interested in finding grants and resources. The City is going to pursue Travel Plan assistance and is looking at ways to support partner schools like **Burroughs Molette Elementary School, Glynn Middle School, and Goodyear Elementary School.**

While the **City of Tybee Island** in Chatham County has remained a Friend of the Resource Center since 2009, the island town has not had a school since **St. Michael's Catholic School** (a former partner) closed in 2010. Last year, a new charter school opened in the city. The **Tybee Island Maritime Academy (TIMA)** is a neighborhood school in a walkable and bikeable community that also draws students from all over the county. Those that can walk typically do and the school's location provides for almost daily walking field trips. On September 19th, Patti met with Tybee Island City Manager, Diane Schleicher, and TIMA principal, Pat Rossiter. Patti explained partnership opportunities and health and safety benefits. The group discussed the NHTSA curriculum, too. Diane invited Patti to help with the Tybee Island Bicycle Rally to be held on Sunday, October 19th near the school. Patti will be there with bicycle safety information and displays.

Marketing

The Resource Center promoted International Walk to School Day throughout September. The website had been updated in August, and the SOCs encouraged schools and community organizations to utilize the resources provided.

The Bicycle Rodeo toolkit was developed and is in editing phase. It will be available later this fall.

The Resource Center Outreach team posted to Facebook five times in September. Posts included IWalk registration, photos from a large SRTS event in Decatur, reminders about a mini-grant opportunity from the National Center for SRTS and Schwinn, and links to interesting resources.

Travel Plan Assistance

The Resource Center launched the application and web site pages explaining the Travel Plan Assistance options. Applications are due in early November. The information can be found here: www.saferoutesga.org/content/safe-routes-school-travel-plans-and-reports. Each SOC is tasked with having at least three applications from their territory. SOCs are reaching out to municipalities, school districts, and schools to encourage applications. Applications will be reviewed and approved by GDOT, and planning meetings will begin in December.

Thirty Day Look Ahead

The Outreach team will continue to work with schools, districts, and communities to plan events and resources that support walking and biking programs. International Walk to School Day is October 8th with events planned on that date and throughout October, Walk to School Month and Halloween month. The team will continue to distribute incentives and support materials to schools registered at www.walkbiketoschool.org. The Resource Center's registration goal for 2014 IWalk is 200 schools/events. At the end of September, there were 135 schools registered for IWalk.

The week of October 20-24, 2014, is School Bus Safety Week. The outreach staff will promote the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Pedestrian Safety Curriculum school bus safety lesson to schools and community groups to promote safe pedestrian behaviors around school buses.

During this school year, the Outreach team will focus on progressing school partners from Partner to Bronze, Silver, and toward Gold level to develop sustainable SRTS programs at schools throughout Georgia.

The Resource Center management team will provide a draft scope of work and begin negotiations with GDOT for Task Order 3. Task Order 2 ends in mid-January.