



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

The Resource Center serves the State of Georgia by delineating outreach efforts into five geographic territories, serving more than 427 school Partners across the state. Additionally, the Resource Center has 287 Friends, or community / stakeholder partners that support the state's mission, but that are not schools themselves. A map of the five outreach territories and the distribution of SRTS Partner Schools (denoted by dots), is shown on the right.

The Resource Center had a great month! During November, the outreach staff supported 14 events, held 93 meetings, and gave five presentations to schools and community organizations as well as to students.

One new Partner signed on in November. All Partners are listed on the complete Partner list at the back of this report. [Click here](#) for more information about the Resource Center partnership program.

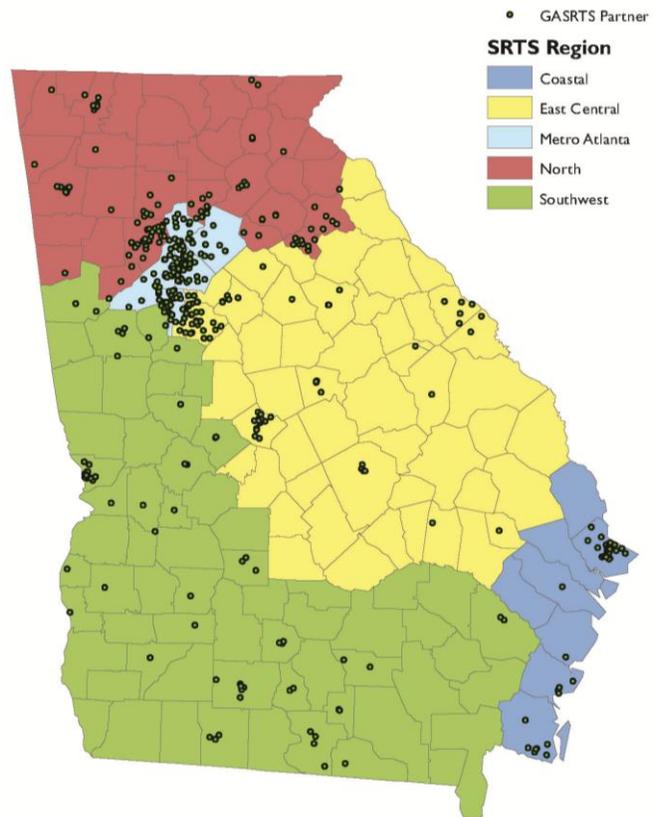
Outreach

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

Nichole currently serves 130 Partners in the Metro Atlanta Region. In November, Nichole provided technical assistance to schools and resources for their crossing guard appreciation week celebration. She also encouraged prospective and existing schools to apply for the Safe Routes to School Travel Plan, and assisted Friend organization, **SafeKids**, with the planning phase for new efforts to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety in Gwinnett and Clayton County schools. Nichole also welcomed a new friend organization called the **Traffic and Safety Coalition** to the Resource Center.

Crossing Guard Appreciation Week was a huge Success in Metro Atlanta! The following schools and friend organizations made outstanding efforts for their crossing guards:

- **Decatur Active Living (Friend partner)** in Decatur, Georgia appreciated the Decatur City Schools' wonderful Crossing Guards and honored each of them at the City of Decatur Police Department. The crossing guards received a certificate of appreciation, a coffee mug, and breakfast. See photo of the guards with their mugs at right.
- **Drew Charter School (School partner)** in Atlanta, Georgia celebrated Crossing Guard Appreciation Week by providing their crossing guards with homemade cards from the students and hot chocolate during the whole week. The PTA also gave coffee and gift cards as a big thank you for their service to the community and the school.



- **West Manor Elementary School (School partner)** in Atlanta, Georgia surprised their crossing guard with a nice poster of kids walking to school and a crossing guard helping to make sure they arrive safely. They also provided their crossing guard with a certificate of appreciation, breakfast, and thank you cards! See photo at right.



Nichole also planned outreach efforts with **SafeKids Gwinnett** for December. The coalition currently has more than 120 helmets they will provide to students in Gwinnett County for the Holidays. Since many students receive bikes around this time of year as gifts, they are collaborating with SRTS to make sure children are educated about bicycle safety and helmet safety. Nichole is helping the coalition to identify a potential school to receive helmets, along with holding a bike safety education assembly in December.

Nichole helped **Decatur Active Living** present the Golden Shoe Award to **St. Thomas Moore** in Decatur City Schools. Their school had the highest participation on International Walk to School Day among the schools in Decatur!

In December, Nichole is also planning to attend PTA meetings at prospective and existing schools to give presentations about Safe Routes to School as it relates to their own unique school and community.

East Central Territory - Taki Smith, School Outreach Coordinator

Taki currently supports 81 Partners in the East Central Territory.

In November, Crossing Guard Appreciation Week was a success in the East Central Territory! Taki had several schools in her territory acknowledge and show their appreciation throughout the week.

- **Greensboro Elementary School**, located in Greene County, made a banner to hang in their school. The School SRTS Champion also provided the Crossing Guards with thank you cards from the students and goodies from the school. *See the photo to the right.*
- **Greenbrier Elementary School**, located in Columbia County, provided guards with thank you cards and goodies from the students.
- **Burghard Elementary School**, located in Bibb County, also observed Crossing Guard Appreciation Week by providing their crossing guards with gifts and thank you cards that the students signed.



The **Wheel Movement Organization**, an organization that focuses on making the Central Savannah Region Area (CSRA) a bike-friendly community, is an active supportive Friend of the Resource Center. Taki is a diligent member of the organization where she also serves on the Board of Directors and focuses on child pedestrian/bicycle education. On November 22nd, Taki presented to more than 50 Wheel Movement members at the Annual Meeting and Bicycle Ride in Richmond County at the Kroc Center. Taki presented valuable information about the Resource Center, upcoming events, and provided information about the upcoming Travel Plan Application.

Throughout November, Taki exceeded expectations and met with several Friend organizations to become acquainted with the upcoming events and networking opportunities in her territory.

- On November 13th, Taki traveled to Newton County to attend a Childhood Obesity Initiative with **Be Healthy Newton-Newton County Family Partnership**, a Friend of the Resource Center. During the meeting, Taki shared success stories from the Resource Center in regards to schools in the Newton County area who were active participants with walking events.
- Taki also made connections with the **Newton County School District** Nutrition Coordinator, who agreed to assist and help encourage schools in the area to apply for the Travel Plan Assistance.
- Taki attended the **Live Healthy Baldwin** partnership meeting in Baldwin County on November 21st. At the meeting, Taki connected with **HealthMPowers**, a Friend of the Resource Center that promotes school health initiatives. As a result from the meeting, Taki will represent the Resource Center and participate in the Body Walk exhibition sponsored by HealthMPowers at **Eagle Ridge Elementary School**, a Resource Center School Partner, in December.

North Territory – Alicia Hatcher, Sr. School Outreach Coordinator

Alicia maintains 105 school Partners in the North Territory. As Senior School Outreach Coordinator, Alicia also manages the partner database (Salesforce) and coordinates data collection efforts. In November, she spent time working with other outreach staff to coordinate Student Travel Tallies, our data collection resources.

Alicia collaborated with Charlie Jones and Julie Smith of **Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia**, the pedestrian and bicycle task force of the **Northwest Georgia Regional Commission** and Friend of the Resource Center, for Crossing Guard Appreciation Week. Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia printed out certificates of appreciation from the Resource Center's website and provided them to the crossing guards at each school.

The group worked with three School Partners in Floyd County:

- **Elm Street Elementary School**
- **West End Elementary School**
- **Main Elementary School.**

At **Elm Street Elementary School**, students and faculty celebrated by having the Principal, Joan Moss, and the school safety patrol present their crossing guard, Emma Brown, with a certificate of appreciation. See pictures at right. Ms. Brown has been a crossing guard for the past 17 years and has no current plans to retire. The student safety patrol also wrote an article about her for Young Romans, a section of the local paper created by students, to be published in December. Ms. Brown says, "Being a crossing guard is not a job, it's a privilege!"



Caleb Davidson is the new SRTS contact at the **Georgia Mountains Regional Commission**. Alicia met with Caleb on November 6th to discuss their SRTS plans. Mr. Davidson would like to provide travel plan assistance to schools in walkable areas. Alicia is already working with several schools in Gainesville and Cumming, but Mr. Davidson would like to expand the program to new schools who are not School Partners in smaller areas that do not have as many local resources, but have a good network of sidewalks in place. Mr. Davidson is using GPS to survey existing sidewalks and conditions to choose schools. From there, he will work with Alicia to determine which schools to target. He and Alicia will reach out to these schools and hopefully generate interested in the program.

School Partners **Turner Middle School** and **Lithia Springs Elementary School** in Douglas County applied for travel plan assistance from the Resource Center. Alicia recently worked with Turner Middle School during International Walk to School Day. **Safe Kids Douglas** helped complete the travel plan applications and rallied the schools to apply. Alicia sees this as an opportunity to engage both schools and plan events for the spring regardless of the application outcomes.

Southwest Territory – Chelsea Carter, School Outreach Coordinator

Chelsea continues to support 71 Partner Schools in the Southwest Territory. Travel Tally Reports, Crossing Guard Appreciation Week and Travel Plan applications were the high priorities during the month of November.

In order to increase the number of Travel Tallies, each school was contacted each week by phone, email, or in person. With the majority of schools closed a full week for Thanksgiving, some schools have planned to submit their Tallies the following week.

Crossing Guard Appreciation Week was met with excitement through the entire territory; schools provided thank you cards as well as treats for their Crossing Guards. Mr. Jamaris Carter, principal from **Lanier County Elementary School**, gave the school's crossing guard, Mr. James Evans, a gift during Appreciation Week as a thank you for continuing to keep students safe as they cross the busy road to get to school every day.

Chelsea promoted and assisted schools with the Travel Plan Assistance and Safety Focus Assessment applications.

- Partner School **Garrison Pilcher Elementary** in Thomasville has been working with Chelsea to cultivate the needed connections in order to apply for the Safety Focus Assessment. Calls have been made to the Thomas County Public Works Department as well as the school district's Facility Maintenance and Operations Department. Garrison Pilcher plans to discuss the application among key players to address the benefits and options; if they are unable to make all the needed contacts by the deadline, they will be well prepared to submit their application next year.
- **North Mitchell County Elementary School** will apply again this year for Travel Plan Assistance in hope of bolstering their number of pedestrians and cyclists with a plan for future improvements and education. Chelsea, alongside **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission** representative, Barbara Reddick, has been working with the Principal, Jacqueline White, to address the application process as well as describe what a Travel Plan would mean for the school and community.
- Potential Partner **Carrollton Elementary** contact Chelsea in the last week of November. This school created their own Safe Routes to School Task Force; their call was in reference to basic rules of the road and the Safe Routes to School program. After being informed of the Safety Focus Assessment, they asked for a brief presentation on December 1st, to inform the Superintendent of their intention to become a partner as well as apply for the Assessment. Chelsea contacted the **Safe Kids Carroll County** to coordinate assistance and collaborate in creating a safer walking environment for Carrollton Elementary School's students.

During several meetings with Barbara Reddick from the **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Office** in Camilla, many potential events and activities have been created. The Regional Commission will collaborate with the Resource Center to support SRTS in the region including plans for a community Bike Rodeo in 2015. The goal of this rodeo is not only to teach about safety and bring together the key networking local and regional members, but to lay the foundation for new partners in this rural part of Georgia.

With GDOT's new program **Teens in the Driver's Seat**, the Resource Center will support Regional Commissions in making contact with middle schools and school districts to implement the program alongside Safe Routes to School. Chelsea has already begun to plan an activity for its advertisement in the Southwest Regional Commission area. The city of Camilla hosts a yearly Youth Summit, and this year, it is planned that Teens in the Driver's Seat will be introduced to the students and guidance counselors in attendance.

To create a strong network among the Southwest Region's counties, Chelsea met with **Bainbridge College** representatives. The college may provide support and a source of volunteers for future events and activities. Chelsea is working to develop volunteer sources and support for SRTS where there are currently few. **Safe Kids Worth County**, the child safety coalition in the area, will be coordinating with Chelsea to aid in events.

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

Patti maintains 40 school Partners in the Coastal Georgia Territory. One school partnered with the Resource Center in November. Patti supported a number of events and presentations throughout the month.

Patti was invited to present to the students on the Principal's Council at **St. Mary's Middle School** on November 1st. The students are working on their annual project and have been tasked with "leaving a legacy." After a classmate was struck by a car walking home from school, the students decided to focus their project on pedestrian safety! They came up with some ideas to improve infrastructure including a new sidewalk along an adjacent street. However, their plans to present to the St. Mary's City Council were discouraged by district administrators who urged the students and their advisors to research more and to find other solutions. The city of **St. Mary's Police** Chief, Chief Hatch, supports the students and met with Patti in October. During the meeting, Chief Hatch showed Patti some areas of concern around the city. They also dropped by to talk with the principal at St. Mary's Middle. Principal Wooden immediately invited Patti to the next Principal's Council meeting (on November 1st) to present and help guide the students through data collection and planning. Patti gave a short presentation and worked on defining next steps with the students. The students and their class advisors embraced resources from GA SRTS such as the Middle School Walk Audit Toolkit, Student Travel Tallies, Parent Surveys, and safety tip sheets. The students plan to create safety announcements for their classmates and to conduct data collection over the next few months.

Pulaski Elementary School partnered with the Resource Center in November. On November 3rd, Patti presented to more than forty students from all grades at **Pulaski Elementary School**. The group included all "civilian walkers." Since the school straddles the border between Hunter Army Air Field and the city of Savannah, some students live on the base while others live in the community right outside the school in Savannah. Many walk and some ride bicycles. The school champion saw the need for students to have more pedestrian safety information, so Patti presented at the school to the captive audience of walkers about pedestrian safety, personal safety, and some bicycle safety. After school, Patti stayed to observe and walk with the students who are escorted to an intersection off school property by up to five teachers. Crossing guards also help the students get home at two intersections, and Pulaski staff recognized those guards during Crossing Guard Appreciation Week.

On November 19th, **Windsor Forest Elementary School** in Chatham County hosted its second monthly Walk to School Day. With support from Patti, Healthy Savannah organizers, and Alison Huffman from Safe Kids Savannah, the school has planned to hold monthly walk events on the third Friday of each month. On November 21st, children, parents, and volunteers met at a nearby skateboard park and walked together for the Turkey Trot Walk to School Day. Morphia Scarlett from Healthy Savannah rallied the students with health tips and cheers. All students who walked were entered into a raffle for prizes such as a Resource Center pedometer and blinkie light.

Marketing and Resource Development

Crossing Guard Appreciation Week was November 17th through 21st. Staff promoted the event in advance and provided materials for schools to recognize crossing guards. Materials included a template press release, thank you cards, and a set of related graphics. The resources will remain on the SRTS website's [Crossing Guard Appreciation Week landing page](#). The event was a success, and plans are underway to promote it again in November 2015.

The Resource Center Outreach team posted to [Facebook](#) 13 times including numerous Crossing Guard Appreciation event photos and highlights. Posts also included iWalk success (150 registered events were in Georgia!) and reminders about events and materials and national resources.

Travel Plan Assistance

The Resource Center extended the deadline for Travel Plan Assistance applications to December 4th noting that some schools and community organizations requested the extension before Thanksgiving break. Selections will be made for the assistance in mid-December in coordination with GDOT. Information about the applications and assistance being offered can be found here: www.saferoutesga.org/content/safe-routes-school-travel-plans-and-reports.

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.

The Resource Center team will accept applications for Travel Plan Assistance and Safety Focused Reports through the first week of December. Selection will take place in December, and the Resource Center will work with Katelyn DiGioia at GDOT to determine the schools to receive assistance. That assistance will begin immediately after the schools are announced.

The Quarter Four Georgia Safe Routes to School Team Meeting will take place in Atlanta December 15th through 17th. Included in the meeting schedule is a project update, task discussions including Forum and Georgia Walk to School Day planning, and communications and media relations discussion and presentations from GDOT Communications staff and URS/AECOM Transportation Demand Management Project Manager, Christine Diaz, regarding media and events successes. Additionally, the project team will pilot the **GA SRTS Bicycle Rodeo Toolkit** at **Drew Charter Elementary School** with the support of GDOT and area partners.

The Resource Center management team provided a draft scope of work to GDOT for Task Order 3 in October. A budget estimate was provided and negotiations are expected to continue through December. Task Order 2 ends in mid-January.