



## Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center Monthly Progress Report October 2015

The Resource Center serves the State of Georgia by delineating outreach efforts into five geographic territories, serving 438 School Partners across the state. Additionally, the Resource Center has 290 Friends, or community stakeholder partners that support the state's mission. A map of the five outreach territories and the distribution of SRTS Partner Schools (denoted by dots), is shown on the right. The map also displays locations for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Child Pedestrian Curriculum trainings, the sites of the Forums, and sites of SRTS Travel Plans administered by the Resource Center since the project's start in 2009.

International Walk to School Day (iWalk) is observed in October, Walk to School Month. The Resource Center School had 160 schools register and participate in the event.

During October the Resource Center School Outreach Coordinators (SOCs) held 99 meetings, facilitated 23 presentations and attended 22 iWalk events.

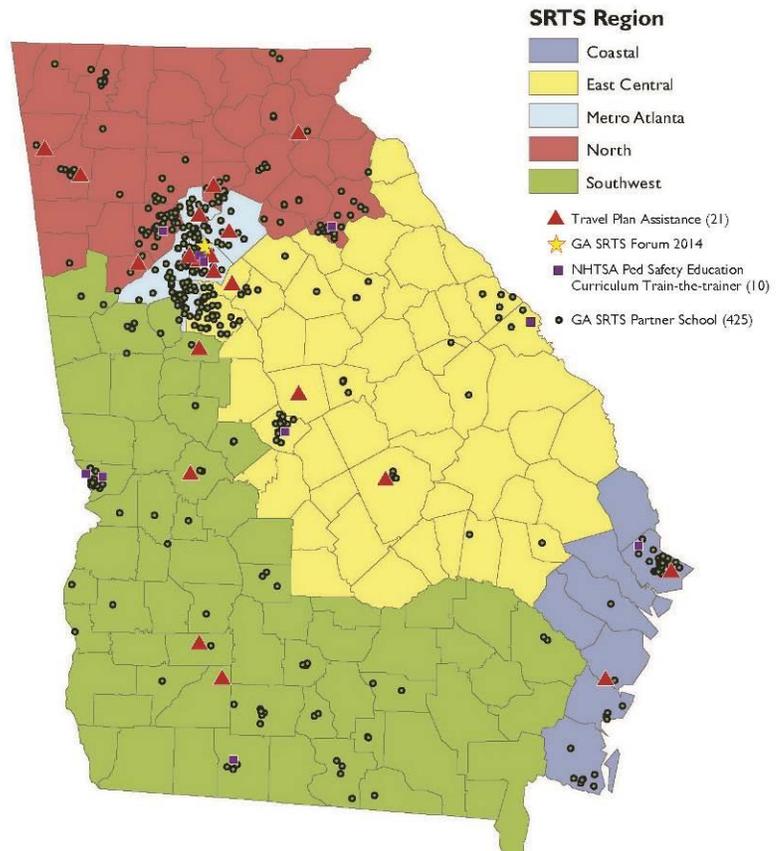
All Partners are listed on the complete Partner list at the back of this report. [Click here](#) for more information about the Resource Center's Partnership program.

### Outreach

#### Metro Atlanta Territory – Nichole Hollis, School Outreach Coordinator

Nichole serves 140 School Partners in the Metro Atlanta Territory.

In October, there were 74 registered iWalk events. Many events included special guests, snacks and extra rewards, and community partners. Nichole also promoted safe walking during the week of Halloween and provided schools with snacks bars from **Kaiser Permanente's Fire up Your Feet program**.



Nichole was able to attend several events and was excited to see the level of participation increase from her schools this year which included:

**The Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School (ANCS)** in Atlanta had over 150 students to participate. There were two walking school bus groups that met in the Atlanta Zoo parking lot and one bike train. Students were excited to see Atlanta Police Department officers on horses as they arrived at school. The picture on the right shows Atlanta City Councilperson Carla Smith and a student petting the horse.



**Westchester Elementary School** in Decatur had a special guest from the **Georgia Commute Options Schools program**. The students were surprised to be greeted by the **Ride Share Bear** as they entered the school! Students at Westchester receive an extra five minutes of recess once the walkers fill their marble jar. Nichole, **The Decatur Bike Dudes**, the principal, and the Ride Share Bear were on hand to announce that students met their goal as seen in the picture to the right.



**Parkside Elementary School** in Atlanta has an outstanding school champion. She was also named teacher of the year at her school in 2014. There were more than 100 walkers at the school's event which also included the **Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent** and the school's panda mascot. Students arrived at school hearing music and also received snacks and incentives from the resource center.



**College Heights Early Learning Center** in Decatur held a bike rack dedication ceremony. A school parent designed three bike racks for the students which were shaped like a stroller, shoes, and a bike. **Decatur Active Living** and the entire student body were in attendance. The picture to the right shows Nichole, the administration staff and the school champion. College Heights had over 75 walkers on International Walk to School day.

In November, Nichole will promote Crossing Guard Appreciation Week and also begin collaborating efforts with friend partners for Georgia Walk to School Day.

### **East Central Territory – Corey Crumbley, School Outreach Coordinator**

Corey currently serves 81 School Partners in the East Central Territory.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, Corey was introduced as the new School Outreach Coordinator for East Central. Corey has experience with SRTS and working with children, and he earned a Master's in public health. He is excited about working with each individual partner and community friend.

During October, Corey was busy becoming acquainted with Georgia's SRTS program and the East Central Territory. Corey trained with the Georgia and South Carolina SRTS teams and attended several events and meetings during his first few weeks.

Corey had 20 schools participate in International Walk to School Day during October. Corey attended his first Walk to School Day event with Patti on October 7<sup>th</sup> at **Hodge Elementary School** in Savannah. October 15<sup>th</sup>, Corey began to reach out to his partners via email to properly introduce himself as the new SOC, to set-up meetings, and to learn more about their current events. He also promoted SRTS programs such as iWalk and Crossing Guard Appreciation Week.

**Greene County School District**, located in Greensboro, had more than 1400 students, faculty/staff, and parents participate in Walk to School Day on October 30th. Five schools in the district collaborated and participated in this annual event. The School Champion organized a park and walk site. All the students from each school were shuttled to the site by bus before school started. The **Greensboro Police Department** blocked off the street and everyone walked a half of a mile to their school. The Mayor of Greene County and the School Superintendent also walked with the students. Each year Greene County Schools is known for planning a dynamic iWalk event.



**Greenbrier Elementary School**, located in Columbia County, had record numbers with more than 500 students and parents participating in iWalk this year. This is the school's third year participating in the event, and their participation increased by 300 students since last year. The student safety patrol was on board to welcome the students as they arrived to school, passing out SRTS incentives.



On October 21<sup>st</sup>, Corey attended meetings in Milledgeville and met with Champions at **Blandy Elementary School** and **Creekside Elementary School**, which both participated in iWALK. While in the area, Corey also met with **Kyle Collins, GDOT District Communications Officer**. Corey also attended meetings in Richmond and Columbia County. Corey met with Champions from the following Columbia County schools on October 25th: **River Ridge Elementary School**, **Greenbrier Elementary School**, and **Lewiston Elementary School**, while he was in the area.

In November, Corey will focus on getting to know his School Partners and Community Friends, promoting Georgia Crossing Guard Appreciation Week, encouraging Partners to apply for travel plan assistance, and continue to travel to different counties throughout her territory to meet with School Partners, keeping schools and champions abreast of upcoming SRTS events and program offerings.

### **North Georgia Territory – Elizabeth Jones, School Outreach Coordinator**

Elizabeth currently serves 105 School Partners in the North Georgia Territory.

October in the North Georgia Region was all about iWalk! Elizabeth had 22 school partners register for iWalk. The students were energized, the parents were excited, and the School Champions around the region really made iWalk 2015 a huge success.

Through our partnership with **Fire Up Your Feet**, an initiative of the SRTS National Partnership, five North Georgia Region schools joined the challenge this month. One of those schools, **Turner Middle School** in Lithia Springs has already received a \$250 mini grant for their participation. School Champions are excited about using the funds toward their next Walk AT School and healthy initiative event! Additionally, Cliff Bars made a huge donation to participating schools by donating Cliff Kid ZBars to participating schools during the month. Not only was Elizabeth able to pass out our incentives but also a healthy organic chocolate chip granola bar to sweeten the deal!

**Safe Kids Douglas County**, a Friend Organization, partnered with the Resource Center during iWalk month. Elizabeth teamed up with **Lin Snow, SK Douglas Coordinator** for three events this month. Together they were able to present the importance of child pedestrian safety to the Douglas County community, including elementary and middle schools in the county.

Elizabeth also did a lot of data collection during October. Elizabeth kicked off the idea of counting the number of cars in the carpool lane during and before or after Walk to School Days at two schools in her region. Elizabeth partnered with **Regional Commissions** and School Champions to help with the counting. They were excited to see that the number of vehicles in the carpool lane reduced by 42% at **Fairyland Elementary** in Lookout Mountain. At **East Side Elementary** in Marietta, the number of vehicles in the carpool lane dropped by 36%.

October ended with Elizabeth energizing schools about keeping the momentum going. Elizabeth has been reminding school partners of the approaching Travel Plan deadline, as well as the upcoming School Crossing Guard Appreciation Week during November. October proved to be a great month to get school partners excited about walking and biking to school.

### **Southwest Georgia Territory – Chelsea Carter, School Outreach Coordinator**

Chelsea currently serves 70 School Partners in the Southwest Georgia Territory.

With **International Walk to School Day** being the headline event during October, Chelsea spent a large amount of her month traveling the Southwest Territory to teach and take part in iWalk events. Five partner schools received NHTSA education with extra safety information regarding Halloween. Three of the five schools had data gathered from grades first through fifth before and after the lesson in order to help measure the success of each lesson. Altogether, 1000 students received education during iWalk.

Long time prospect, **Jeff Davis Elementary School** signed on in October to become a new school partner and participated in iWalk. Counting cars, observing arrival, and tally collection data will all go into their Travel Plan Assistance application. The school currently participates in a daily Park and Walk, and with the Primary, Middle and High schools in close proximity. There has also been discussion of a detailed walk audit or observation in order to determine how students travel between schools.

During October, Chelsea attended two **Alliance for a Healthier Generation** workshops yielding many new contacts and prospective school partners. **Sherwood Acres Elementary School** is not a partner but is interested in the program. The school has completed their Student Travel Tallies and is in the process of learning the steps toward hosting a walk audit. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation also extended the invitation for Safe Routes to School to be showcased at another workshop in Wayne County which Patti Sistrunk attended.

Also in October, Chelsea hosted a collaborative meeting among the Regional Commission in her area. This meeting was incredibly productive and also included members from **Teens in the Driver's Seat**, **GDOT** and **GDOE**. In October, **Mr. Howard Hendley** from the **Georgia Department of Education** contacted Chelsea with information about two upcoming events: The **Georgia Association of Education Leaders (GAEL)** Conference in November and the **Family Engagement Conference** in February. Chelsea has received an invitation to hold a booth at the GAEL conference in Savannah free of charge in order to promote Safe Routes to School. Chelsea will also take information regarding Teens in the Driver's Seat as well.

### **Coastal Georgia Territory – Patti Sistrunk, School Outreach Coordinator**

Patti currently serves 43 School Partners in the Coastal Georgia Territory. Two Coastal Region schools signed on in October.

**Brock Elementary School** joined the Resource Center this month. Brock Elementary School has a significant walking participation and is involved with the Healthy Savannah initiative to increase walking and bicycling in neighborhoods. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Patti joined other **Healthy Savannah** volunteers at **Brock Elementary** to help collect Student Travel Tallies by visiting each classroom during first period to count the number of students that walk, bike, ride school buses, and ride in a family vehicle.

Patti attended many meetings to plan for International Walk to School Day and to provide staff with incentives for events. Leading up to iWalk. At **Hodge Elementary School**, the principal agreed to be the feature school for the 2015 iWalk event for Safe Kids Savannah and Fed Ex. Patti and Corey from the Resource Center, Alison Huffman from **Safe Kids Savannah** and many volunteers from **Fed Ex**, the **Savannah Chatham County School District**,

and the community came out to support the students that normally walk to school with incentives and healthy snacks. Fed Ex brought a brand new truck that the students walked through. The walking school buses, which have been featured in the local newspaper, arrived to cheers! After the walk, the volunteers went inside to view the more than 20 posters produced by classes at the school that featured walking and safety themes! Three winners were decided by popular vote. Those classes received wal mart gift cards from Safe Kids Savannah. Additionally, Safe Kids provided each classroom with the new Safe Kids Fed Ex pedestrian safety book, Clifford Takes a Walk (featuring Clifford, the Big Red Dog.) Hodge's Principal Wells is pictured at the right.



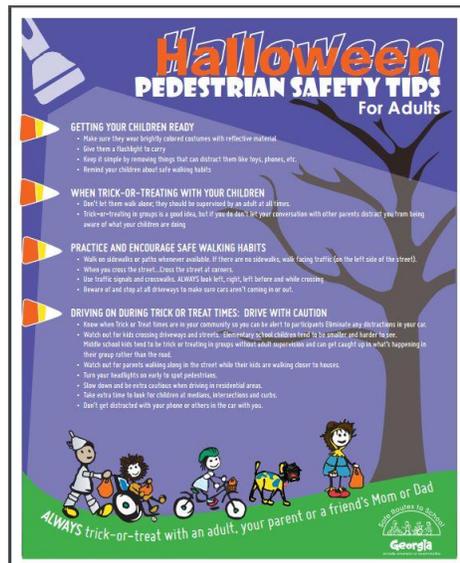
**Fresh Start** is an alternative school housed at Port Wentworth Elementary School in Chatham County. The school partnered with the Resource Center at the start of October ahead of registering for International Walk to School Day. With a maximum capacity of about 50 students and all students bused to and from various parts of the county, the school will not have any walkers. However, the principal (formerly of **East Broad Street K8 School**) is excited to utilize the Resource Center's materials for pedestrian and bicycle education. The iWalk event included a walk around the school grounds and incentives and safety information from the Resource Center.

Patti presented to a group of **Wayne County** nurses in Jesup as part of an **Alliance for Healthier Generation** workshop. The nurses and assistants represented five schools. The schools were excited to learn about all that Safe Routes offers. While many of the schools are already partners, Patti provided additional ideas to coordinate with their Healthy Schools goals, provided wall calendars, and encouraged the nurses to contact her or Chelsea for more ideas and support. Chelsea will be following up the schools next month.

### Marketing and Resource Development

In October, the Resource Center updated the website home pages and updated information in many resources.

The Resource Center staff collaborated to create a Halloween Pedestrian Safety tip sheet. The tip sheet is useful in that one side addresses parents and the other is specific to children.



### Travel Plan Assistance

The Resource Center staff reached out to many communities and Regional Commissions to discuss Travel Plans, Safety Focused reports, and walk audits.

Applications are available now for Travel Plans and Safety-Focused Report for 2015-16 school year. Deadline for the application is November 5, 2015. For more information on the planning process, visit <http://www.saferoutesga.org/content/safe-routes-school-travel-plans-and-reports>.

The Travel Plan map was uploaded to the Georgia SRTS Resource Center website in August. The map is available at <http://saferoutesga.org/content/completed-travel-plans-0>.

### **Thirty Day Look Ahead**

The Outreach team will promote Crossing Guard Appreciation Week during the third week of November prior to Thanksgiving. Additionally, the team will continue to solicit Student Travel Tallies and encourage pedestrian and bicycle education throughout November. The team will schedule pedestrian and bicycle safety education events and work with schools to promote Safe Routes programming.

The project team will have a Quarterly meeting in early November in Atlanta to discuss data collection and the SRTS Forum planned for June.