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Contact: Liz Fetchin | Director of Marketing and Communications
412/622-6915, ext. 3801 | lfetchin@phipps.conservatory.org

Let's Move Pittsburgh Announces Champion Schools Award Winners

New program provides funding and recognition for efforts to improve student health.

Pittsburgh, Pa. — [Let's Move Pittsburgh](#), a program of [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#), announced in April 2014 a new opportunity to inspire and celebrate school champions committed to promoting healthy food choices and increased physical activity for the region's children. The initiative's Champion Schools Award program, supported by Giant Eagle, solicited applications from Allegheny County schools, as well as organizations working within these districts, for both seed grants to fund new projects and awards to acknowledge existing efforts to foster healthy lifestyles. Twenty applicants have now been selected to receive awards totaling \$20,060.37, impacting nearly 10,000 local students.

Champion Schools Award applicants were judged according to the standards of need, sustainability and impact for programs related to the following themes: Bag the Junk — Increasing Healthy Food and Nutritional Education in Schools, Getting Kids Moving and Inspiring Kids to Grow and Cook Food. Awards range from \$500-\$1,500, with priority given to public, charter and private preschool and elementary schools. To ensure success, Let's Move Pittsburgh offered resources, project examples and networking opportunities to assist with the development of programs that will have a measurable impact.

"As part of the Champion Schools Award program, Let's Move Pittsburgh challenged local educators to increase student access to healthy foods, develop opportunities for kids to be physically active, and incorporate cooking and gardening activities into the school environment," says Hannah E. Hardy, Let's Move Pittsburgh director of programming and operations. "The response was wonderful, and we are really excited and inspired by all of the health-promoting projects we are now pleased to support."

Among the recipients of Champion Schools Award seed grants for new projects are: Pittsburgh Faison, Sterrett Classical Academy, Barrett Elementary, Pittsburgh Linden, Pittsburgh Banksville, Rankin Promise, Pittsburgh Concord, The Frick Environmental Charter School, Colfax Elementary School, the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh, Urban Pathways K-5 and Hyde Elementary. Those receiving cash awards for existing programs include Miller African Centered Academy, PLEA, Falk Laboratory School, Manchester Academic Charter, Fred L. Aiken Elementary, Hartwood Elementary and Pine Richland Middle School. Kentucky Avenue School and Winchester Lower School also received special awards of excellence. Awardees will be recognized at the annual Let's Move Pittsburgh Symposium on Nov. 5, 2014.

About Let's Move Pittsburgh: Let's Move Pittsburgh, an initiative of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens supported in part by UPMC Health Plan, is a collaborative effort of organizations, healthcare providers, educators, parents and caregivers in southwestern Pennsylvania committed to leading children in the region toward a healthier future. The program is inspired by First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* campaign to curb childhood obesity through raised awareness about the benefits of healthy foods, decreased screen time and increased physical activity for children.

About Phipps: Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: phipps.conservatory.org.

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