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## Resource Center News: New Lowcountry School Outreach Coordinator

Jennifer Senn is the newest member of the SC SRTS Resource Center Team and will provide outreach and support to the Lowcountry Region. Jennifer graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor's degree in English and earned a Master's in Writing from Rowan University. Passionate about pedestrian and biking programs, Jennifer comes to us from Atlanta where she worked in transportation demand management, helping adults find healthy commute options. As a mother, she believes deeply in getting children moving. She, her husband, and daughter love spending weekends biking, walking, and kayaking



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

### From our State Coordinator

I am proud to report that South Carolina ranks in the top three in the United States with most events registered and among the top 10 for the largest increase over last year. We had 277 registered events - a 33% increase from the number of registered events in 2012!!!! Thank you all for another successful International Walk to School Day! This historic accomplishment could not have happened without you.

Now that the event is over, we want to hear how it went at your school. Click here to complete our [event survey](#) and give us your feedback on your experience. Also, enter our International Walk to School Day Photo Contest by emailing your favorite

around Charleston.

Lowcountry Partners can reach Jennifer at  
[JenniferS@SCsaferoutes.org](mailto:JenniferS@SCsaferoutes.org)



## Upcoming Event: School Bus Safety Week and Halloween Safety

Almost every student will ride in a school bus at least once this school year! Whether it's going to school, taking a field trip or heading to an after-school program, it's important for children to learn about school bus safety!

**National School Bus Safety Week is October 21-25, 2013.** Here are some ideas to help celebrate:

- Incorporate NHTSA's **Bus Safety Lessons** into PE class. Click here to download the lessons for grades **K-1**, **2-3**, and **4-5**.
- Host a **Poster Contest** or Speech Contest. This year's contest theme is "At my Stop - You Stop". [Click here](#) to download the guide with more information. Poster contest entries are due October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Watch school **bus safety videos** in class or play them on your morning announcements.

photo from the event, along with a brief description, to your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) by **November 1<sup>st</sup>**. Photo entries will be uploaded to our [Facebook page](#) on November 4<sup>th</sup> and the photo with the most likes at 5pm on November 8<sup>th</sup> will be featured on our Facebook page, and the school with the winning photo will receive a SRTS gift basket.

## Grant Opportunity: Voices for Healthy Kids & Fuel Up to Play 60

Voices for Healthy Kids: Active Places Grant Reminder:

**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 is the deadline for applications!** [Active Places](#) can provide your community with technical assistance to support campaign efforts that will result in shared use agreements and street scale improvements in underserved communities. Click [here](#) for more information on the application process. The point of contact from the lead organization, office or community group must complete the [application form](#) and submit via email to [activeplaces@saferoutespartnership.org](mailto:activeplaces@saferoutespartnership.org) by **October 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Fuel Up to Play 60 Grant:

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013**, is the deadline for applications! Schools may receive up to \$4,000 to fund plans to promote healthy and active lifestyles. The Fuel Up to Play 60 grant application can be found [here](#).

Highlight on a Friend:

National School Bus Safety Week provides an opportunity to discuss getting to school safely with your students who ride the bus! Contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) with questions or for assistance.

**Halloween is also around the corner!** Make sure to share [Halloween Safety Tips](#) with students and parents. You can also use this [Halloween Safety Info graphic](#), created by Safe Kids, in your newsletters and on your school bulletin boards!

## Partner Highlight: IWalk Event Highlights! Share Your Story!

International Walk to School Day (IWalk) was October 9<sup>th</sup>. Schools are holding events throughout October. Here are a few highlights from around the state.

Upstate: **Fountain Inn Elementary** unveiled its newly completed multi-use pathway and sidewalks with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The infrastructure project was funded by the Safe Routes to School program administered by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). Students, parents and staff met at Fairview Street Park at 7:00 AM and walked together to school. The Mayor of Fountain Inn, City of Fountain Inn staff, and Greenville County representatives were on hand to celebrate the new walking and biking improvement!

Midlands: **Felton Laboratory School** in Orangeburg hosted a t-shirt contest for their event. Students wore their designed shirts while walking around South Carolina State University's campus. Many activities were planned before and after their event, including face painting, cheers, and step shows. Teachers also incorporated safety lessons the week before IWalk!

Lowcountry: **Mitchell Elementary School** participated in this year's IWalk by having staff, students, and parents meet at Harmon Park

## Operation Lifesaver

[Operation Lifesaver](#) is a non-profit organization providing public education programs to prevent collisions, injuries and fatalities on and around railroad tracks and highway-rail grade crossings. In the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train roughly every three hours. [Operation Lifesaver](#) promotes the three E's - education, enforcement, and engineering to keep people safe around the tracks and railway crossings within our communities. Help make your community safer by teaching rail-crossing safety! Their committed volunteers teach community members how to behave properly and safely around rail property.

[Operation Lifesaver's](#) network of [volunteer speakers](#) offers free rail safety education to school groups, driver education classes, community audiences, professional drivers, law enforcement officers, and emergency responders. Invite one of their [volunteer speakers](#) to speak about Railroad Safety to your students or at your next community meeting! Check out their website for [Bicycle Safety Tips](#) near train tracks. Click [here](#) for more information!

## Not a Silver Level Partner Yet?

Due to the success of so many schools participating in Walk to School Day events in South Carolina each year, the Resource Center will only be able to provide unique incentives such as the very popular glow in the dark silicone bracelets to [Silver and Gold Level Partners starting Fall 2013!](#) Bronze level schools will no longer receive these types of incentives, but they will

downtown Charleston at 7:00 AM to walk down Fishburne Street escorted by police officers and the Burke High School band! Trident Area Safe Kids was also an organizer in this event and provided prizes for participants.

**Do you have a story to share? Enter our Photo Contest by emailing a photo of your event, along with an event description, to your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) by **Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**!**

receive other incentives for participating in Walk and Bike to School Day events.

Click [here](#) to see the requirements to become at least a Silver Level Partner! There is still plenty of time to achieve Silver status before International Walk to School Day on October 9, 2013. Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance.

Like us on 

Keep up with the Resource Center this school year by liking us on [Facebook](#)!

"[Like](#)" us to stay updated on interesting news articles, upcoming events and different funding and learning opportunities!



*The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is a program of the South Carolina DOT*

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