

Lakeside Elementary Wins Grant to Promote Physical Activity



NEWS RELEASE COURTESY OF SHANNON HOLLAND, WV ON THE MOVE

Lakeside Elementary In Putnam County was one of ten (10) West Virginia schools awarded up to \$5,000 each from West Virginia on the Move, Inc. (WVOM) to promote physical activity for students, staff, families and communities through the *Schools on the Move* (SOM) Grant Program.

Lakeside Elementary was awarded for their project *Pedaling the Panther Path!*:The grant team will paint a bike path on an existing hard surface, purchase pre-k bikes, gross motor equipment and storage to accommodate typical and special needs students. They will also obtain safety helmets, and host a community wellness fair and safety bike rodeo in conjunction with community agencies and businesses.

We often hear talk of what "should" be done to get kids physically active, but applicants for SOM grants are truly working to making important changes. We are excited about the diversity of this year's selected projects," says Shannon Holland, WVOM Executive Director. Holland adds that the competition was quite tough this year, making selections difficult. Awarded projects range from playgrounds, biking trails, and family fun nights to skating and archery programs.

WVOM is a nonprofit organization that promotes a physically active lifestyle for all West Virginians by providing leadership, technical expertise, and collaboration with the goal of reducing the prevalence of chronic disease. With these new awards, WVOM will have awarded 35 SOM grants since 2005. These new projects will impact almost 4,000 people through schools. By next year SOM grants will have impacted almost 11,500 West Virginians.

Funding for SOM Grants was made possible through the generosity of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and WVU Children's Hospital Foundation.

For a listing of the other nine winning schools go to <http://www.wvonthemove.net/som.htm> or contact Shannon Holland at 304.345.1235.

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