

## Shoes for Every Child at Saxe Gotha Elementary

**NewSpring Church Lexington Campus** gave approximately 725 Saxe Gotha Elementary students a brand new pair of New Balance tennis shoes along with a new pair of socks.

Earlier this school year, they worked with school administrators to make sure they had the right size for each child. In December, church volunteers helped students lace up their footwear.

In return, SGEs thanked NewSpring during its January “Live responsibly, Engage respectfully, Act safely, Dream big” rally with a video, cards, certificate of appreciation, and a standing ovation.

## United Way 2015 Campaign Awards

Lexington One has a long history of partnering with the United Way, and tonight several schools receive awards from the United Way of the Midlands.

United Way of the Midlands Resource Development Division Director **Laura Lamon**, and Lexington One’s Support Staff Quality and Development Coordinator **Kimberly Scott** and Executive Secretary **Stephanie Wright** will present the awards.

**Carolina Springs Middle** (Principal **Brice Cockfield** and Employee Campaign Director **Amie Saunders**), **Gilbert Elementary** (Principal **Tim Oswald** and Employee Campaign Director **Heather Gresham**) and **White Knoll High** (Principal **Ryan Player** and Employee Campaign Directors **Michelle Bishop** and **Kim Mize**) are receiving awards for being the top fundraising school for each level.

At the District Office, the combined offices of the **Superintendent, Communications** and **Student Services** (represented by Superintendent **Karen Woodward, Ed.D.**, Chief Communications Officer **Mary Beth Hill**, Director of Student Services **Jeff Caldwell** and Employee Campaign Director **Brenda Young**) receive the top location fundraising award.

**Deerfield Elementary** (Principal **Jan Malone** and Employee Campaign Director **Meghan Snipes**), **Meadow Glen Middle** (Principal **Bill Coon** and Employee Campaign Director **Davis Myers**) and **Pelion High** (Principal **Clark Cooper** and Employee Campaign Director **Kiri Rawson**) are being recognized for having the greatest percentage increase in contributions.

At the District Office, the **Operations Department** (Chief Operations Officer **Jeff Salters** and Employee Campaign Director **Nancy Reynolds**) are recognized for having the highest dollar percentage increase.

**New Providence Elementary** (Principal **Debbie Poole** and Employee Campaign Director **Amy Prioreschi**) will receive the highest participation award. They had 100% participation.

## Walter P. Rawl and Sons, Inc. School Garden Mini-Grant Winners

Walter P. Rawl and Sons, Inc. established School Garden Mini-Grants to help Lexington One’s schools enhance students’ knowledge of diet and nutrition by providing financial assistance toward planting and sustaining a school garden.

Tonight, Walter P. Rawl and Sons, Inc., represented by **Susan Clifton**, and the Lexington One Education Foundation, represented by Executive Director **Connie McFarland**, present the grant recipients.

Nine teachers, one administrator and two students submitted an application and received a grant for their schools. They include: Third-Grade Teacher **Judy Whitesell** from **Gilbert Elementary**; Special Education Teachers **Susan Clubb** and **Debbie Pstrak** from **Gilbert Middle**; Agriculture Teacher **Robert Bollier** and FFA President **Ean Crapps** from **Lexington Technology Center**; Fourth-Grade Teacher **Jami Carter**, Kindergarten Teacher **Jan Joines**, STEM Teacher **Jeanne McKinney** and First-Grade Teacher **Perry Troutman** from **Meadow Glen Elementary**; Second-Grade Teacher **Erica Schumpert** from **New Providence Elementary**; River Bluff High Senior **James Smith** and Assistant Administrator **Andrew Brooks** from **Rocky Creek Elementary**.

## February 16, 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting

### 2015 4A State Competitive Cheer Player of the Year

In January, Lexington High Varsity Cheerleader **Peri Jayne Skipper** was named the 2015 4A State Competitive Cheer Player of the Year by the South Carolina Coaches Association of Women’s Sports.

Skipper is a senior at Lexington High and serves as one of the captains of the LHS competitive cheer team.

The LHS Cheer Coaches are **Shannon Canady** and **Leigh Watson**.

### 2015 4A State Competitive Cheer State Champions

Lexington High Varsity Cheerleaders won the 4A Competitive Cheer State Championship in November. The top 16 teams in the 4A division qualified to compete in the South Carolina High School League State Competitive Cheer Championship.

Members of the 2015 LHS cheer team are **Raeghan Albright, Alexis Almeida, Reagan Alvarez, Brooke Borough, Savanna Caraway, Gracen Childress, Sarah Craven, Ashlyn Cromer, Landrey Daniel, Allie Enright, Addie Lynn Evans, Makenzie Floyd, Kyra Fringer, Morgan Gossett, Ashleigh Harding, Shelby Hunter, Leah Kincaid, Elizabeth Kurtz, Macey Lawson, Lauren Lovett, Kayley Manini, Caroline McGee, Shannon Murray, Alexis Odom, Josie Pickler, Emma Sauls, Madison Shealy, Peri Jayne Skipper, Tina Stegmann** and **Emily Zona**.

The Lexington High cheerleaders performed their best routine of the season — receiving a top score of 360. They placed ahead of other powerhouse cheer teams to win their second state title in three years.

The LHS competitive cheer team is coached by **Shannon Canady** and **Leigh Watson**.

### We the People State Competition Winners

River Bluff High students in Level Two at the school’s Center for Advanced Study — The Center for Law and Global Policy Development won a statewide “We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution” competition sponsored by the S.C. Bar Association.

RBHS students **Melissa Byars, Reese Corry, Bradi Crockett, Sydney Crosby, Julia Dales, Ryan Eckstrom, Graylen Grant, Merrit Jones, Lillian Lawrence, Brendan Montesinos, John Simpson** and **Kimberly Vonada** competed against 10 other teams. The competition required students to demonstrate their knowledge of U.S. History, constitutional principles and other aspects of American government during simulated congressional hearings.

The group will travel to Washington, D.C., in April and compete on the national level.

RBHS Social Studies Teacher **Linsy Dooley** is the adviser for the group.

### 2015 3A Region V Athletic Director of the Year

Gilbert High Athletic Director **Barry Harley** received recognition as the 2015 3A Region V Athletic Director of the Year. Athletic directors and principals in the region chose Harley for the honor. The region includes Aiken, Airport, Brookland-Cayce, Gilbert, Midland Valley and Swansea high schools.

Harley retires at the end of this school year from his position as Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at Gilbert High School, a position he’s held for 11 years.

During his time at Gilbert High, the Indian athletic teams have won three baseball state championships, and individual state championships in golf, track and wrestling. GHS also received the South Carolina High School League Region Sportsmanship Award three times.

## 2015 3A Region V Principal of the Year

Gilbert High Principal **Ann O’Cain** received recognition as the 2015 3A Region 5 Principal of the Year. Principals from around the region, which includes Aiken, Airport, Brookland-Cayce, Gilbert, Midland Valley and Swansea high schools, chose O’Cain for the honor.

As an athlete in high school and college, O’Cain knows the importance of athletics. During her tenure, there have been many additions and upgrades to Gilbert High athletic facilities, including adding a new football and soccer stadium, baseball stadium, track facility, weight training facility, tennis facility and renovated softball field.

## 2015–2016 South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children Para Educator of the Year

Lexington High Instructional Assistant **Carla Roland** was named South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children Para Educator of the Year at the SCCEC annual conference earlier this month.

Recipients of this award are nominated by other members of SCCEC. They represent educators, advocates and students across South Carolina who are making a difference through collaboration and commitment to our special needs students and families.

Roland is in her fourth year with Lexington One and her third year as an instructional assistant in a Special Needs classroom with Lexington High.

## 2016 South Carolina Association of School Administrators Personnel Administrator of the Year

Chief Human Resources Officer **Mary Walker** was named the 2016 South Carolina Personnel Administrator of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.

SCASA is the professional organization for school leaders in South Carolina, with a membership of more than 4,000.

Walker has served Lexington One for 39 years. She has led the district through the planning and staffing of 11 new schools, while continuing to provide for the many needs of the employees and overseeing the HR end of the implementation of the new payroll/HR system.

## DonorsChoose.org Project Funding

Carolina Springs Middle Special Education Teacher **Britani Magargle** received funding through DonorsChoose.org to incorporate a new way of learning into her classroom.

Her “Stability Ball Chairs to Enhance Education” project helps many of her students with sensory issues, who find it difficult to sit still, have fun with learning.

With the help of the stability ball chairs, Magargle hopes that her students will find it easier to maintain focus and learn.

## Palmetto State School Counselor Association Elementary School Counselor of the Year

The Palmetto State School Counselor Association named **Jennifer Adams** the state’s 2016 Elementary School Counselor of the Year.

Now the Director of School Counseling and Advisement at Carolina Springs Middle, Adams was recognized for her outstanding work at Rocky Creek Elementary.

Adams has worked as a school counselor for 12 years and serves on the board of directors of the Palmetto State School Counselor Association. She led the effort to attain the American School Counselor Association’s Recognized ASCA Model Program designation for two different Lexington One schools.

## Palmetto State School Counselor Association Middle School Counselor of the Year

The Palmetto State School Counselor Association named **Laura Stockdell** the state’s 2016 Middle School Counselor of the Year.

Stockdell was recognized for her outstanding work as Director of School Counseling and Advisement at Meadow Glen Middle, where she implemented a Military Mentor Program that helps teach students about resilience, character and professionalism.

A school counselor for more than 20 years, Stockdell formally served on the board of directors of the Palmetto State School Counselor Association and is a Global Career Development Facilitator and National Board Certified.

## American School Counselor Association Recognized ASCA Model Program

The American School Counselor Association will award the organization’s Recognized ASCA Model Program designation to **Midway Elementary** during a ceremony in July at the annual conference in New Orleans.

The RAMP designation recognizes schools with counseling programs that deliver a comprehensive data-driven program and create an exemplary educational environment.

Midway Elementary is represented tonight by Principal **Jan Fickling** and School Counselors **Brandy Ludlam** and **Rick Masters**.

For the second time, the American School Counselor Association will recognize **Rocky Creek Elementary** for achieving RAMP designation for their exemplary educational environment.

Rocky Creek Elementary is represented tonight by Principal **Brenda Nichols**, School Counselors **Donna Bryan** and **Jamie Dawkins**, and former RCES School Counselor **Jennifer Adams**.

## 2016 PalmettoPride Litter Trashes Everyone Education Grant

**Deerfield Elementary** has been awarded a 2016 Litter Trashes Everyone Education Grant in the amount of \$5,000. Learning Coach **Brooke Scott** applied for and received the grant for Deerfield Elementary.

The grant will be used to enhance the school’s recycling efforts, to create an outdoor classroom, and to educate the students and community about the impact recycling can make on the Earth.

DES currently recycles paper, bottles and cans but wants to expand their recycling efforts by including cardboard products, plastic grocery bags, drink pouches, small electronics, ink cartridges and other items.

## 2016 PalmettoPride Tree Grant Recipient

Deerfield Elementary Learning Coach **Brooke Scott** received a PalmettoPride Tree Grant, which included 15 Dogwood trees and 15 Bald Cypress trees for planting.

The trees will beautify the campus, provide shade and prevent soil erosion while creating an outdoor learning space for students to have outside learning experiences and develop their personal, social and emotional development through engaging activities.

Through other grants, DES hopes to add picnic tables, mulch for the floor area and bricks to make a walkway.

## The Environmental Education Association of South Carolina Leader in Me Flower Pot Project Mini-Grant Recipient

**Deerfield Elementary** received a Leader in Me Flower Pot Project Mini-Grant from the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina.

**Brooke Scott**, Deerfield Elementary Learning Coach, received the grant in the amount of \$300. The project will engage students in a variety of 21st century skills such as creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, communication, work ethic and interpersonal skills by allowing them to purchase 15 planters and potting soil.

Students in the Planet Heroes Environmental Club will research plants appropriate for the planters, choose different plants for each planter, and foster their leadership skills, research skills, writing skills and presentation skills at the same time.

## Give Hope Campaign

Several locations of **Radius Church** donated more than \$40,500 to benefit at least 16 Lexington One Schools through its Give Hope Campaign.

The donations will help students at Carolina Springs Elementary, Carolina Springs Middle, Deerfield Elementary, Lexington Elementary, Lexington High, Lexington Middle, Lexington Technology Center, Meadow Glen Middle, New Providence Elementary, Oak Grove Elementary, Red Bank Elementary, River Bluff High, Saxe Gotha Elementary, White Knoll Elementary, White Knoll High and White Knoll Middle.

The church asked only that school administrators and counselors assess the needs of students as those needs arise and distribute the money as needed.