

Making an Impact

Big Feats Virtual Race supports high-need schools nationwide

In October 2018, SHAPE America and Gopher Sport kicked off the first-ever Big Feats Virtual Race, a physical activity challenge designed to engage students, parents, teachers and the community.

For 10 weeks, culminating on December 31, virtual race participants across the country set their own movement and/or distance goals and completed the race on their own time, at their own pace — all while raising money through their personal networks.

Eighty percent of the funds raised by the Big Feats Virtual Race will be allocated to 10 Title I schools that were selected through the SHAPE America Impact Schools Grant Program. These grantees represent more than 5,000 K-12 students in nine states. In addition, one health and physical education teacher from each of the schools will receive a \$1,000 stipend from Gopher Sport to attend the 2019 SHAPE America National Convention & Expo in Tampa.

The remaining proceeds from the Big Feats Virtual Race will fund HPE advocacy efforts and professional development at the state and national levels.



HPE teachers Stephanie Powers, Shaun Walters and Adrian Crawford with some of their students at Buford Middle School in Charlottesville, VA.

Meet our 10 Impact Schools and learn how funding will make a difference for their students:

Acero Cruz K-12 School — Chicago, IL

800 students: 94% qualify for free/reduced lunch

“We need basic technology such as heart rate monitors that will help our students measure progress and set goals.”

Buford Middle School — Charlottesville, VA

536 students: 55% qualify for free/reduced lunch

“Pedometers and other equipment purchased through the grant will not only improve students’ lives in our PE program, but also through after-school programs and community fitness nights.”

Gen. John J. Stefanik Elementary School — Chicopee, MA

420 students: 92% qualify for free/reduced lunch

“Our school is the only one in the city without a playground. Our students need a safe space to play. This funding will change our school in immeasurable ways.”

K. William Harvey Elementary School — Ronan, MT

424 students: 100% qualify for free/reduced lunch

“We need basic equipment and materials to help students learn how to be healthy and active — and encourage our teachers as well.”

Laurelton-Pardee Intermediate School — Rochester, NY

338 students: 50% qualify for free/reduced lunch

“We have a strong need to update old equipment that has been used for more than 20 years. Time has had an effect, and many of our PE resources are deteriorated.”



Students from grades 1-5 at Rebecca M. Johnson Elementary School in Springfield, MA.

Meredith Middle School – Des Moines, IA

827 students: 76% qualify for free/reduced lunch

“Our school needs heart rate monitors and other technology to best provide our students with an impactful PE experience while aligning to our soon-to-be-adopted state standards.”

Rebecca M. Johnson Elementary School – Springfield, MA

760 students: 89% qualify for free/reduced lunch

“We want to build up programs that allow students to engage in healthy activity before and after school – and expand our outdoor garden, where students grow fruits and veggies for snacks and to give to those in need.”

Richmond Elementary School – Ridgecrest, CA

488 students: 53% qualify for free/reduced lunch

“Our school aims to improve our students’ options to be physically active, regardless of ability level, and we want to provide more inclusive playground equipment for our students with significant disabilities.”

Ruth Hill Elementary School – Newnan, GA

400 students: 76% qualify for free/reduced lunch

“These funds would help us replace worn-out PE equipment, some of which is more than 30 years old. Our students are using dry-rotted basketballs and scooters with broken wheels.”

Schrop Intermediate School – Akron, OH

550 students: 60% qualify for free/reduced lunch

“Most of our students lack the resources to participate in youth sports. Our hope is to expand opportunities for our students to participate in our school’s physical activity programs and purchase new outdoor equipment to enhance their experience during PE.”



Adapted physical education specialist Andrew Smosna with students from Richmond Elementary School in Ridgecrest, CA.



Fostering active environments and lessening health disparities and inequities for all children is a Big Feat – but thanks to the help of many, we are one step closer.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and donated to our first Big Feats Virtual Race!