



**For Immediate Release:** June 2015

***Public Garden Grant Program in Pittsburgh Funds Efforts to Improve Student Health***

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** – [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) is taking major steps to address the connection between environmental health and human health through formal and informal outreach and on-site programs and initiatives. [Let's Move Pittsburgh](#), one such initiative dedicated to children's health, has announced its 2015 Champion Schools Awards recipients, providing 17 Allegheny County schools with grants to support health and wellness projects that will affect more than 3,000 local children.

Champion Schools Award applicants submitted proposals for programs in the following categories: Bag the Junk — Increasing Healthy Food and Nutritional Education in Schools, Getting Kids Moving, and Teaching Kids to Grow and Cook Food. Individual grants in the amount of \$1,000 support efforts ranging from the creation of edible gardens to family fitness nights. “We couldn't be more proud of our Champion Schools and are really excited to help them lead the way as innovators of healthy lifestyle programs for children,” says Mary Kathryn Poole, Let's Move Pittsburgh director of programming and operations. “Engaging children in creating healthy environments and activities helps the entire community.”

Some examples of winners include the Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-5, who will make fruits and vegetables a celebrated component of the school cafeteria. The cafeteria will feature permanent artwork and signage about fruits and vegetables, the staff will host taste tests, and the cafeteria will double as a fitness program site in the winter.

Shady Lane School will transform its outdoor play area into a Neighborhood of Make-Believe, where students can run, play and learn about gardening with fruits and vegetables.

Other grant recipients are: Barrett Elementary, Hiland Child Care Center, Pittsburgh Woolslair PreK-5 and Shady Lane School, Aiken Elementary, Environmental Charter School, Falk Laboratory School, Greenock Elementary, Kentucky Avenue, Memorial School, Pittsburgh Dilworth Traditional Academy, Pittsburgh Langley K-8, PLEA, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School, Urban Pathways, and the Waldorf School of Pittsburgh. These awards were generously funded by the Heinz Endowments.

Learn more about Let's Move Pittsburgh and Champion Schools at [letsmovepittsburgh.org](http://letsmovepittsburgh.org). Contact information for award recipients is available upon request.

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**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](http://phipps.conservatory.org).