Four photos attached.

Captions:

1. Whitesville Elementary PE teacher Janet Farrell with Baptist Health Madisonville Marketing Director Kristy Quinn.
2. Freedom Elementary PE teacher Erin Stallins and Principal Brooke Stinson.
3. Pembroke Elementary PE teacher Trey Wheeler, Baptist Health Madisonville Marketing Director Kristy Quinn and Assistant Principal Jason Russell.
4. Sebree Elementary PE teacher Mark Spainhoward and Principal Dawn Forker

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Baptist Health Madisonville awards Project Fit America grants to 4 local schools**

**(Madisonville, Ky.) May 23, 2016** —Four local schools will receive grants from Baptist Health Madisonville to launch Project Fit America this fall, a fitness program aimed at reducing childhood obesity.

Baptist Health has invested nearly $66,000 to provide the fitness program to Whitesville Elementary in Daviess County, Freedom Elementary and Pembroke Elementary in Christian County and Sebree Elementary in Webster County. Each will receive indoor and outdoor fitness equipment, teacher training and curriculum materials.

These four schools bring to 10 the total number of schools to receive Project Fit grants from Baptist Health Madisonville. Grapevine Elementary and Pride Elementary in Hopkins County along with Central City Elementary in Muhlenberg County were awarded the program in 2015. In 2014, grants were given to Sinking Fork Elementary in Christian County, Longest Elementary in Muhlenberg County and West Broadway Elementary in Hopkins County.

Baptist Health Madisonville Marketing Director Kristy Quinn recently surprised each school with a banner to notify them of their winning grant application and said that each new school is excited to partner with Baptist Health and Project Fit America.

“This will provide a whole new approach to health and wellness for these students,” Quinn said. “The curriculum is exciting and interactive, and the PE teachers can't wait to begin using it. The students will make use of the Project Fit equipment both within the physical education setting and during recess. We also hope to promote wellness in each community and family with the excitement that this program brings.”

Robert Ramey, Baptist Health Madisonville president said the program exemplifies the hospital’s focus on health, especially in today’s culture when obesity and its related conditions, such as diabetes, are among the area’s greatest health risks.

“Baptist Health is focused on building a strong foundation of good health in our community,” Ramey said. “We reiterate that dedication to community education and disease prevention with the expansion of Project Fit America to help children build good lifelong habits for healthy lifestyles.”

 “We know childhood obesity can lead to health problems such as high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes,” Ramey said. “We also know children learn better when they are healthy. Baptist Health and Project Fit America are perfect partners for helping our schools improve our students’ health and thereby improve their academic achievement.”

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 **About Project Fit America (PFA)**

PFA is a national nonprofit organization that creates sustainable and innovative broad based fitness programs in schools. PFA programming includes state-of-the-art outdoor fitness equipment specifically designed to address the deficit areas where children fail fitness tests; indoor fitness equipment; a dynamic curriculum with games, activities and challenges; on-site teacher training and in-class instruction on subjects such as smoking intervention, nutrition and understanding your body. PFA is in its 26th year of working with schools in nearly 1,000 schools in over 300 cities in 46 states. Schools report increased motivation, participation and physical improvements in their students, along with parents and faculty becoming more involved in choosing fitness activities over sedentary lifestyle habits.

**About Baptist Health Madisonville**

Baptist Health Madisonville is part of the Baptist Health family of hospitals and physicians, one of the largest not-for-profit healthcare systems in Kentucky. Baptist Health Madisonville proudly serves western Kentucky residents with eight locations to meet the needs of Kentuckians close to home. As an integrated health provider, it includes 100 primary care and specialist physicians, a 410-bed hospital with a state-of-the-art 20-bed Critical Care Unit and 10-bed Observation Unit, an Education and Research Division with a Family Medicine Residency, award-winning Women’s Health, advanced Cancer Care and a progressive Heart & Vascular Center. Guided by a values-based culture to deliver clinical and service excellence consistently, Baptist Health Madisonville strives for excellent care, every time.

**Mission**

Baptist Health demonstrates the love of Christ by providing and coordinating care and improving health in our communities.

**Vision**

Baptist Health will lead the transformation to healthier communities.

**Values**

Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Collaboration, Compassion, and Joy

**Locations**

Medical Group facilities are located in Madisonville, Dawson Springs, Hopkinsville, Princeton, Powderly, and Central City.

Express Care located in Madisonville Walmart and Hopkinsville Walmart.