



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM SCREEN ACROSS AMERICA TO PROVIDE HEART SCREENINGS TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS DURING OCTOBER SUDDEN CARDIAC AWARENESS MONTH

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the #1 Killer of Student Athletes in the United States

Philadelphia, PA – Twelve members of [Screen Across America](#), a consortium of organizations throughout the United States that provide heart screenings to children and young adults, will host screening throughout October, which is Sudden Cardiac Awareness Month.

“There are over fifty organizations in Screen Across America,” said Darren Sudman, Co-Founder of Simon’s Fund and Founder of Screen Across America. “Checking the hearts of our children is no longer an admirable pet project of a grieving family. It is a national movement of parents, doctors and medical institutions.”

Sudman, along with his wife Phyllis became advocates of sudden cardiac awareness and screenings for children and young adults after their 12-week-old son, Simon, passed away from an undiagnosed heart condition. Simon’s had Long QT Syndrome, one of the many conditions that lead to sudden cardiac arrest. After his passing, through a simple test called an electrocardiogram (ECG), Phyllis discovered that she had the syndrome as well. The Sudman’s decided to use Simon’s story to do something positive, so Simon’s Fund and Screen Across America were formed.

“Screening is proven to identify cardiac abnormalities in young people,” said Dr. James Beckerman, Cardiologist at Providence Heart and Vascular Institute and Play Smart Youth Heart Screenings. “Some of these abnormalities may increase the risk of sudden cardiac arrest while still in school or later in life. We believe that families should have the opportunity to identify these abnormalities earlier so that they can appropriately address them with their health care team.”

In most states, children are routinely screened for various health issues including hearing, vision and scoliosis. Unfortunately, the most important organ in the body, the heart, is not routinely checked. Members of Screen Across America believe that screening children’s hearts should be a standard of care because Sudden Cardiac Arrest kills thousands of children every year. It is the #1 cause of death of student athletes in the United States. According to data collected by Screen Across America members, a heart condition will be discovered in approximately one out of every 100 young people that attends a heart screening. In Italy, all students get their heart checked. This is what Screen Across America is aiming for in the United States.

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**Screen Across America
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October 2014 Screenings (scheduled as of September 25, 2014, subject to change):

- ❖ [Heartfelt Cardiac Projects – Laguna Beach, California](#) (10/25, 10/28)
- ❖ [Youth Heart Watch of Central MA – Auburn, Massachusetts](#) (10/9)
- ❖ [Simon's Fund – Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania](#) (10/26)
- ❖ [Straight from the Heart; The Jordan Johnson Foundation – Post Falls, Idaho](#) (10/4)
- ❖ [Cypress ECG Project – Cypress, Texas](#) (10/1, others to be added)
- ❖ [Play Smart Youth Heart Screenings – Portland, Oregon](#) (Multiple dates)
- ❖ [Early Detection Screenings – Lafayette, Louisiana-](#) (10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25)
- ❖ [Heart Screen New York – Long Island, New York](#) (10/25)
- ❖ [Max Schewitz Foundation – Lake Bluff, Illinois](#) (10/1, 10/8, 10/21, 10/22, 10/29)
- ❖ [Anthony Bates Foundation – Phoenix, Arizona](#) (10/18)
- ❖ [Nick of Time Foundation – Seattle, Washington](#) (10/8)

For additional information, to schedule an interview or to attend a local screening please contact Nicole Hawkins at Nicole Hawkins Communications, nicole@nicolehawkins.com or 202-491-6980.