



**For Immediate Release  
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## **FOR MOTHER'S DAY, SIMON'S FUND TO HOLD FREE HEART SCREENINGS FOR MOTHER'S AND THEIR CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10-19 ON MAY 10 AT COLONIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Philadelphia, PA** – For Mother's Day, what better gift than informing mothers about potential heart defects in their children, and possibly themselves, that could be easily detected and potentially save lives with a fast and simple heart screening? That's what [Simon's Fund](http://www.simonfund.org), a non-profit dedicated to raising awareness about the conditions that lead to sudden cardiac arrest and death in children and student athletes will be doing on Saturday, May 10 from 8:30 – 4:00 at Colonial Elementary School. Simon's Fund screenings are generally for children and young adults, but this screening will be offered to mothers as well.

Simon's Fund was founded after Simon Sudman died at 12-weeks-old from a heart defect called Long QT Syndrome. After Simon passed away, Phyllis, Simon's mother, found out that she also had Long QT Syndrome. Phyllis and Simon's dad Darren had never heard of this syndrome prior to Simon's death. They decided to use Simon's story to do something positive and Simon's Fund was formed. Once Simon's Fund began screenings, a young woman named Whitney Jones was tested at a Simon's Fund screening in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. At this screening, Whitney was also diagnosed with Long QT. Understanding that this can be a hereditary condition from Phyllis and Darren's experience, Whitney's parents were also tested. As was the case with Phyllis, Whitney's mother Rayna was also diagnosed with Long QT.

"Sudden cardiac arrest is the #1 cause of death of adults in this country," said Simon's Fund Co-Founder and Executive Director Darren Sudman. "It is the leading killer of men, women and student athletes. Fortunately, there are warning signs and effective methods of treatment and prevention."

Children and young adults between the ages of 10-19 and their mothers may register for the screening on our website, [www.simonfund.org](http://www.simonfund.org). The students will receive a physical exam, a thorough medical history and an ECG exam. Moms will be counseled about the warning signs and risk factors of heart disease.

### **About Simon's Fund**

Simon's Fund was instrumental in the passage of the first legislation in the country to protect student athletes from sudden cardiac arrest, Pennsylvania's Sudden Cardiac



Arrest Prevention Act. Illinois just became the second state to pass the law, and six other states have introduced similar legislation. Since 2005, Simon's Fund has screened more than 6,000 children's hearts for conditions, which cause sudden cardiac arrest, detecting conditions in one percent of those children screened. For more information, visit [www.simonsfund.org](http://www.simonsfund.org).

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