

Cindy Whittemore  
Gettys Middle School  
510 S. Pendleton Street  
Easley, SC 29640  
February 11, 2015

Dear Governor Haley,

I hope you are doing well! Thank you for all you do for our state and educators in SC! I have enjoyed making a difference serving as a member of the SC Teacher Forum and look forward to many more positive changes to benefit all students in our state. Now, I am writing to you as an advisor of the Gettys Middle School National Junior Honor Society and organizer of the "Run for 51" community event to ask if you would be able to join us for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Run for 51" event in April 2015, which supports two nonprofit organizations supporting an end to domestic violence: MARYS House and Safe Harbor.

This event was created two years ago to remember a fallen student, Daniel Smith, who lost his life to domestic violence the eighth day of his freshman year at EHS. Daniel was involved in the football and wrestling programs at EHS and his football number was 51. Not only are we commemorating his life with the name of this event, but we are the only event in the upstate raising awareness that domestic violence exists, it is often hidden, and needs to be stopped so we do not have to face another tragic situation like Daniel's.

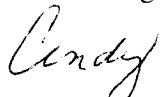
We have primitively planned this event for the past two years and have had more than 450 participants each year. This year, we plan to make it more celebratory and turn it in to an untimed/timed 5K event and are expecting the same amount if not more than 450 participants and spectators for the event. The success of this event was such an unexpected surprise two years ago and we are setting our goal even higher this year, which would be Daniel's junior year in high school. This event will be held at Easley High School on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Each participant will receive a race shirt. We will begin with an opening ceremony at 9:45 A.M before the run at 10:00 A.M. with a celebratory finish line at the end full of prizes and recognition. The Gettys Middle School National Junior Honor Society comprised of 8<sup>th</sup> graders and the Junior Class of Easley High School will be hosting as they will welcome and encourage participants throughout the event while they participate themselves.

We will have a guest speaker who is a survivor of domestic violence to share her story, which will provide such an impact to everyone involved and, in turn, may help someone come forward that may live in silence and in fear.

We would be honored to have you, and your family, consider joining us for this event. You or someone from your office can contact me at 864-855-2515 or email me at [cindywhittemore@pickens.k12.sc.us](mailto:cindywhittemore@pickens.k12.sc.us). If you may be able to attend, I will make sure to contact your office as we get closer to the date. Although you and your family will be our guests, registration information for the race can be found here: <http://go-greenevents.com/runfor51> and our event Facebook page that will be going public next Tuesday, February 24 will also be able to provide additional information: <https://www.facebook.com/runfor51>

Thank you for your current support and efforts to end domestic violence in our community and in our great state.

Warmest regards,



Mrs. Cindy Whittemore

