

MEDIA RELEASE:

St. Luke's and Mayor Jonas to present checks to the Hemingway Playground at Atkinson Park Project

We are pleased to announce a special check presentation on Wednesday, December 9th at 8:20 am at Hemingway Elementary towards the Hemingway Playground at Atkinson Park. The first check will be presented on behalf of Mayor Nina Jonas who participated in the Mayor's School Walking Challenge in October. The month-long "Walktober" event was sponsored by the High Five Children's Health Collaborative, Idaho Dairy Council and St. Luke's. The Mayor's School Walking Challenge is designed to improve children's health by inspiring them to walk or run at school. Mayors act as role models for students and encourage participation throughout the city. Mayors were enticed with \$5,000 for physical activity equipment at a school or park.

In just one month, 26,745 students from 60 schools in southwestern Idaho walked 177,096 miles. Setting an example for these active students were Idaho mayors from 25 communities who logged 9,682 miles in October. Mayor Jonas was one of 12 Mayors completing over 10,000 steps per day and is being awarded \$1,000 to donate to the Hemingway Playground project. St. Luke's Wood River is contributing an additional \$1,500 towards the project as it aligns well with its mission of improving the health of children in the region. Laura Gvozdias, Playground Committee Chair explains why a new playground is needed, "The existing playground structure is nearing the end of its usability lifecycle and replacement parts are increasingly unavailable. We have the opportunity to provide our Valley's children with a vibrant and exciting new play experience at Hemingway Playground. The support of Mayor Jonas, St. Luke's and many other organizations and individuals in our community will help make this project a reality."

Representatives of St. Luke's Wood River will be in attendance along with Mayor Jonas, Hemingway Elementary Principal Don Haisley, Playground Committee Members as well as the students of Hemingway! This short presentation will precede a dress rehearsal of their Winter program.

For additional information regarding the presentation, please contact Joy Prudek, PR & Communication Coordinator, St. Luke's Wood River, prudekv@slhs.org, (208) 727-8435. For additional information regarding the Playground Project, please contact Laura Gvozdias at hemingwayplay@gmail.com.