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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Metal Detectors Donated by “It Takes A Village” Foundation**

*Schools Will Receive Equipment Valued at \$10,000 to Increase Safety for Children*

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The “It Takes A Village” Foundation is donating 50 tactical handheld metal detectors to all 38 Houston County campuses. The handheld metal detectors will be used as an additional security measure. Each high school will receive two metal detectors, and each middle and elementary school will receive one detector. This gift from the foundation founder, Dr. Vernard Hodges, is valued at \$10,000.

The Houston County Sheriff’s Office (HCSO) collaborated on this safety initiative. Dr. Hodges will personally present the metal detectors to Houston County High School on Feb. 14 at 10:00 a.m. HCSO Sgt. Dennis Marshall will also be present.

Partnerships between schools, the community and families play an important role in promoting positive development and academic performance for children. Together they mold behaviors that become a part of the child’s educational experience and influence lifelong decisions.

Dr. Hodges remarked, “I am a product of school, community and family partnerships, and if I can provide something as important as another instrument of safety, then I feel it’s up to me to try and do my best to help the students.”

Dr. Hodges established the “It Takes A Village” Foundation in 2011 because of his passion to improve the lives of youth. His foundation seeks to impact local youth through fundraising, community outreach and charitable works. It is best known for an annual Christmas event, which provides gifts and cheer to local families.

To learn more about the metal detectors and the district’s safety initiatives, contact the Executive Director for Secondary Operations, Dr. Chris Brown, at 478-988-6200. To learn more about the foundation, please call 478-988-0883.

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