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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust and Georgia Sheriffs' Association Partner to Expand Youth Drug Prevention Education

The Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust and the Georgia Sheriffs' Association (GSA) have formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to solidify a new partnership aimed at expanding opioid prevention education for Georgia's youth. Through a two-year grant totaling \$408,000, this funding will enhance the reach and impact of the CHAMPS (Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety) program, ensuring that more students across the state receive critical education on the dangers of opioid misuse and substance abuse.

*"The opioid epidemic has deeply affected communities across Georgia, and sheriffs have witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of addiction. Our sheriffs and deputies are not only law enforcement officers but also mentors and educators in their communities," said **Kevin Tanner**, Trustee for the Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust. "The Georgia Sheriffs' Association's commitment to early intervention and prevention is a key component in fighting this crisis. This grant represents our shared commitment to protecting Georgia's youth by ensuring that prevention education reaches as many students as possible. By expanding CHAMPS, we are addressing the opioid crisis at its root—before addiction takes hold."*

The grant—\$208,000 for Year 1 and \$208,000 for Year 2—will provide essential resources to train and certify new CHAMPS instructors, update educational materials, and expand the program into additional Georgia communities. CHAMPS, led by sheriff's deputies, has been a cornerstone of drug prevention education for more than 20 years, equipping students with the knowledge and tools needed to make informed decisions and avoid the dangers of substance abuse.

*"This partnership is about more than just funding—it's about saving lives," said ****[GSA Representative Name]**. "With this grant, we can ensure that more deputies are trained, more students are educated, and more families are spared from the heartbreak of opioid addiction. CHAMPS has a proven track record of making a difference, and with this expansion, we are taking a major step forward in protecting Georgia's children."*

This funding will support:

- Training and certification of new CHAMPS instructors to increase the program's reach.
- Expansion of lesson plans and educational materials to keep content relevant and impactful.

- Scholarships for sheriff's offices with limited budgets to participate in training.
- Enhanced data tracking and program evaluation to measure effectiveness.
- Support for CHAMPS Camp and youth conferences to provide additional opportunities for engagement and education.

About the Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust

The Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust was established to oversee and allocate funds received from opioid settlements to support prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives across Georgia. The Trust, which oversees more than \$650 million in opioid settlement funds, remains committed to strategic investments that prevent substance abuse and provide long-term solutions. By working with community organizations, law enforcement, and public health agencies, the Trust is committed to reducing the impact of the opioid crisis and ensuring resources reach those who need them most.

About the Georgia Sheriffs' Association

The Georgia Sheriffs' Association represents the state's 159 elected sheriffs and is dedicated to promoting law enforcement best practices, public safety initiatives, and community engagement programs. Through partnerships like CHAMPS, GSA plays a crucial role in protecting and educating Georgia's youth.

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