



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Waterford School Receives USDA Nutrition Excellence Award

CHICAGO, March 17, 2011 – On Tuesday, March 22, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service will present the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award to Carl Sandburg Elementary School in Waterford, Michigan at an all school award assembly. Sandburg Elementary is the second school in Michigan to achieve the Gold Award under the [HealthierUS School Challenge](#), a national initiative to promote healthier school meals, physical activity and fitness opportunities, and nutrition education for students.

Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled, and today, nearly one in three children in America is overweight or obese. The HealthierUS School Challenge is a key component of the First Lady Michelle Obama's [LetsMove!](#) initiative to combat the childhood obesity epidemic through a comprehensive approach with schools, families and communities that helps children become more active, eat better, and get healthier. Sandburg's Gold Award reflects the school's emphasis on nutrition and physical fitness, cornerstones of *Let's Move!*

Improving child nutrition is the focal point of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act signed by President Obama in December 2010. The legislation authorizes USDA's child nutrition programs and allows USDA, for the first time in over 30 years, the chance to make real reforms to the school lunch and breakfast programs and help a new generation win the future with healthier lives. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is the legislative centerpiece of the First Lady's [Let's Move!](#) initiative.

*Tuesday, March 22, 2011*

*1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Award Ceremony and All School Assembly*

**WHO:** Julie Mikkelson, USDA Food and Nutrition Service Regional Director for Special Nutrition Programs; Michigan Department of Education and Waterford school district officials; teachers and students.

**WHAT:** Lunch with students 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Award Assembly in Cafetorium 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. with Detroit Lions mascot Roary, Waterford mascot "Tracker the New-trition Train" and puppeteers.

**WHERE:** Sandburg Elementary School, 1355 Merry Road, Waterford, MI, phone: 248-674-0221

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