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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Invites Schools to Participate in their Litter Free School Zone Program

(September 21, 2017) Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful invites schools in Pennsylvania to participate in their Litter Free School Zone Program, a comprehensive program that encourages young people to play an active role in protecting and improving our environment through recycling, litter awareness, and community stewardship. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful provides a sign recognizing the participating school as a Litter Free School Zone. The school, in turn, organizes two cleanup or beautification events per year. There are currently over seventy schools that participate in the program. All schools are welcome – elementary through high school.

The Lancaster Mennonite School – Hershey Campus in Dauphin County has been a Litter Free School Zone since 2015. “The Litter Free School Zone program has given wings to an intentional environmental stewardship program at our K-12 school. There's something really helpful about being part of a movement that offers a workable accountability for campus cleanups/beautification events. Older and younger students form teams to pick up trash, plant flowers, weed a garden, repaint playground equipment, and more. Last year, we received two park benches made from recycled plastic bags from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful through their partnership with Giant Markets and their Bags to Benches program. We put them at the playground as an abiding reminder of environmental care. I have nothing but thanks and praise for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and this relevant and empowering organization!” said Sue Eckert, Lancaster Mennonite Hershey Campus Elementary Music/Computer Teacher.

“Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful welcomes students, clubs, classes, and even entire school districts to participate in the Litter Free School Zone program. This program provides a fun and easy way for students to work together, learning valuable community leadership and responsibility skills while gaining a respect for the environment and the world around them. It is also an opportunity to develop a school-wide stewardship ethic and set a community example” states Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

The Litter Free School Zone program is sponsored by the PA Department of Environment Protection. Anyone interested in participating should visit <http://www.keeppabeautiful.org/keep-pennsylvania-beautiful-keep-it-litter-free-school-zone/> or contact Stephanie Larson at 877-772-3673.

About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 126 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keeppabeautiful.org.

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