



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 6, 2017

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

**BILL BARNES, CHS/CEMC PRINCIPAL
517-541-5601**

CHS Senior Makes a Difference



Recently, Ashleigh Harris, a Charlotte High School senior, teamed up with Vicky Mennare, a volunteer of The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Together they organized a successful Suicide Awareness Walk on the school track on the very rainy day in October, but the rain didn't stop their mission! The walk was moved inside of the school and raised \$306 with the combined efforts of 40 walkers, community donations, Vicky's organizations sales, and Ashleigh's raffle sales. Ashleigh also had an online fundraiser which raised \$110 for the cause! Great Clips, a hair salon in Charlotte, made a very generous donation of hair products and 4 free haircut coupons to be raffled off at the walk, which helped raise more money for the cause. The raffle drawing took place at the event and all of the winners received their prizes! In addition to walking, participants decorated wooden ornaments with positive, life-focused messages, snapped positive pictures at the photo booth, and enjoyed cider and donuts provided by the CHS Student Council and another senior, Allison Vanalstine. This event brought an outpouring of community support beyond the money raised. Emails, letters, and phone calls flooded into the school over the past few weeks in support of Ashleigh's project, with an overwhelming message that raising awareness and talking about suicide is the first step in providing support to a grieving community and in helping people realize that they are not alone. This project was sparked and implemented by a single student with a powerful mission, and that student, Ashleigh Harris, made a difference in our community! #OriolePride