



FACCES

THE FAMILY, ADOLESCENT & CHILD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICE ®

2025-2026 Impact Report

A Year of Growing Together



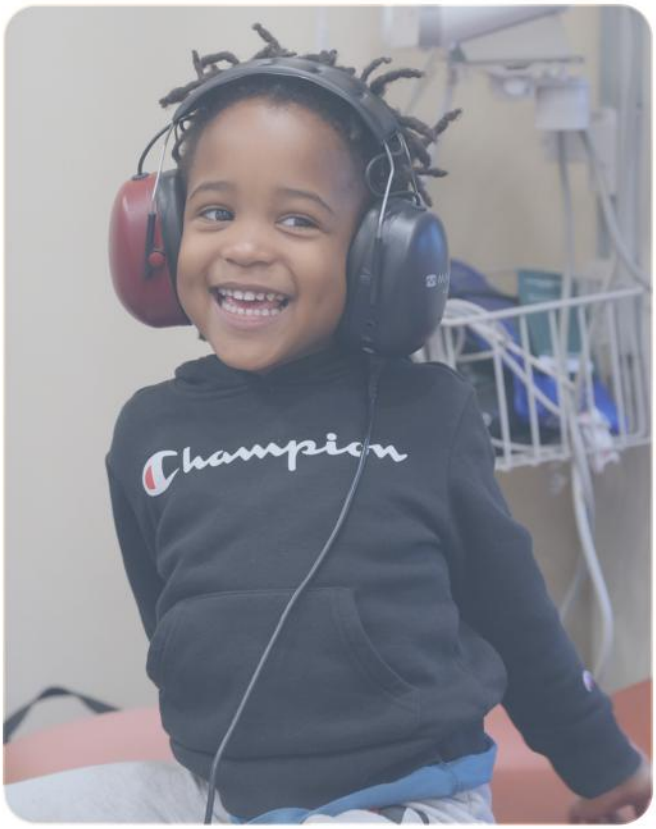




www.thefacces.org
(614) 319-6070 | 1 (800) 464-0920
support@thefacces.org
2515 Lockbourne Rd. Columbus, OH 43207

This is an official document from The Family, Adolescent & Child Community Engagement Service (FACCES), published in 2026.




Champion





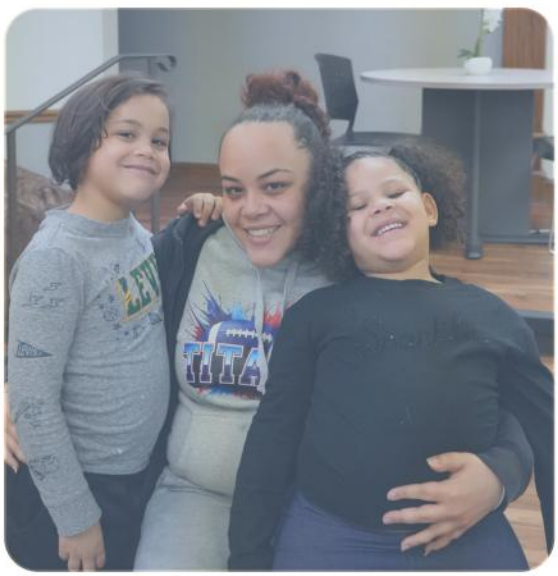










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Founder's Reflection



The 2025-2026 fiscal year was a year of pivots, perseverance, and possibility.

As the founder of FACCES, I have the privilege of witnessing something remarkable every day: people showing up for one another. This year, as we navigated change and adapted to new challenges, our staff, families, volunteers, partners, and supporters reminded me that the true strength of FACCES has never been found in a building, a program, or any one individual. It has always been found in community.

This year also allowed me to reflect on why FACCES was founded. I was reminded that FACCES is not creating something new. We are strengthening something that has existed in communities for generations: people coming together to support one another, strengthen families, and help children thrive.

At its core, FACCES is about belonging. Every child deserves to be seen. Every family deserves to feel connected. Every community deserves a place where people can find support, opportunity, and hope.

This year, we welcomed new families, expanded opportunities for connection, and continued building pathways to resources, wellness, and support. As you read this report, I hope you see more than numbers and outcomes. I hope you see the stories of children, families, staff, volunteers, and community partners whose collective efforts continue to strengthen our community and transform lives.

I am grateful for every person who has been part of this journey. Those who have stayed, joined, returned, and moved on have all contributed to our story and growth. Each person has helped shape the organization we are today.

As we enter our seventh year as an organization, I remain committed to keeping people at the center of everything we do. Through victories and challenges alike, FACCES will continue to be a place where relationships are built, support is accessible, and families are empowered to thrive.

I have never been more certain about the future of FACCES or more committed to the work ahead. Together, we are building a future where every child is supported, every family is connected, and every community is strengthened by the power of belonging.

-Melissa Johnson, Founder

The FACCES Ecosystem

5 Pillars ⟶ 1 Mission



PHYSICAL HEALTH

HEALTHCARE
(NO INSURANCE NEEDED)
PRIMARY CARE
FAMILY FITNESS
CLASSES



MENTAL WELLNESS

FAMILY
WELLNESS WORKSHOPS



EDUCATION

CAREGIVIER TIPS SO CHILDREN ARE:

BORN READY
(PRENATAL - 12 MONTHS)
INDEPENDENCE READY
(NEWBORN TO KINDERGARTEN)
IDEA READY
(KINDERGARTEN THROUGH ELEMENTARY)
BREAKTHROUGH READY
(MIDDLE SCHOOL)
LIFE READY
(HIGH SCHOOL)



FOOD

FRESH MARKET
URBAN GARDEN
COMMUNITY KITCHEN
(NUTRITION EDUCATION)
COOKING CLASSES
HEALTHY RECIPES
FARM STAND



LEGACY DEVELOPMENT

MARKETPLACE
FAMILY GATHERING
(RESOURCE EVENTS)
RECRUITING HUB
(EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING)


FACCES Marketplace
& Garden Expansion
Coming Soon!
Health & Wellness
Hub Coming Soon!
Legacy Development
& Education Center


FACCES
Urban Garden
FACCES
Auditorium &
Kitchen
4
Acre Complex
Built for
Community
Acre
Ecosystem of
Opportunity

2025-2026 At a Glance



3,386 Families Served

4,032 Youth Impacted





4,488 Meals Distributed

1,072 Volunteer Hours





70 Community Partners


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THE FAMILY, ADOLESCENT & CHILD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICE®

Community Kitchen Day | July 2025

Central Community House

Manna Café at Broad Street UMC · Love is served for all. ·



On July 1, 2025, the first Community Kitchen Day celebration brought people together for more than a shared meal. It was an opportunity to honor the community kitchens and gathering spaces that help strengthen families across Central Ohio.

Community Kitchen Day was founded on the importance of food in fostering connection, building relationships, and ensuring everyone has a place at the table.



Community kitchens across the nation provide more than nourishment. They offer support, a sense of belonging, and opportunities for people to come together, share experiences, and build meaningful connections.

On this day, youth, families, community members, and partners come together to recognize the impact these spaces have on the well-being of our communities.





Food & Mood | July 2025

Food & Mood brought families and community members together on July 29, 2025, to explore the powerful connection between nutrition and emotional well-being. Through interactive conversations and hands-on experiences, attendees learned how the foods we eat can influence not only physical health but also mood, energy, and overall well-being.

90%

of surveyed participants reported an increased understanding of the relationship between nutrition, mood, energy, and overall wellness

Youth and their families engaged in guided conversations with mental health and medical professionals, explored a variety of foods that can support a balanced lifestyle, and heard personal insights from community voices.



The experience extended beyond discussion as attendees sampled nutrient-rich, mood-boosting bites prepared with ingredients from the FACCES Kitchen & Urban Garden.



Through recipe cards, meal trackers, reflection, and conversation, participants left with practical tools they could take home and incorporate into everyday life. Food & Mood demonstrated FACCES' holistic approach to wellness: connecting Food and Mental Wellness to help families make informed choices that support the health of the whole person.

"Food & Mood helped me realize how small changes in what we eat can affect how we feel. I left with practical ideas I can use for my whole family," said FACCES Family Member

Summer Youth Program | August 2025

Throughout the summer, our youth had opportunities to learn, explore, create, and grow through a variety of enriching experiences designed to support their academic, social, and personal development. Through hands-on activities, educational enrichment, creative expression, and community engagement, students built new skills, strengthened relationships, and discovered new interests in a supportive and encouraging environment.

364

youth enrolled during FY2025-2026



Working alongside peers, FACCES staff, and community partners, youth engaged in experiences that challenged them to think creatively, collaborate with others, and develop confidence in their abilities. From artistic expression and performance opportunities to leadership development and team-building activities, students were encouraged to explore their talents while building skills that will serve them both inside and outside the classroom.



The summer concluded with a student showcase that highlighted the creativity, growth, and accomplishments of participants. Through plays, skits, poetry recitations, piano performances, and other talent presentations, students shared what they learned and experienced throughout the program while celebrating their achievements with family members, staff, and peers.

"My favorite part of summer camp was going to the greenhouse every day and getting to pick things like watermelons," said FACCES Summer Youth Participant



At its core, the Summer Youth Program was designed to create meaningful opportunities for young people to be seen, heard, and supported. By fostering curiosity, confidence, and self-expression, FACCES continued its commitment to helping youth recognize their potential and build the foundation for future success.

FACCES uses Individualized Progress Plans (IPPs) tailored to each student's strengths, interests, and developmental needs. Through personalized goal setting and targeted support, youth are empowered to achieve academic and personal success in ways that are meaningful to them. By connecting learning to students' passions and offering opportunities for exploration and achievement, FACCES helps young people build confidence, strengthen essential skills, and thrive in school and everyday life.

85.3%

of participating students successfully achieved their individualized goals, demonstrating measurable growth in key academic, social, and developmental areas





Back to School Re-Up | September 2025

The FACCES Back-to-School Re-Up brought families together to prepare for the new academic year with the resources, information, and community support children need to thrive. More than a back-to-school event, the gathering created a welcoming space where families could access essential supplies, connect with local organizations, and build confidence as they prepared for the year ahead.



84%

of surveyed families reported feeling better prepared for the school year after attending the Back-to-School Re-Up

Families received free school supplies, educational resources, and a complimentary meal while connecting directly with city representatives and community partners. These conversations allowed parents and caregivers to ask important questions, learn about available programs and services, and gather information they could use to advocate for their children throughout the school year.



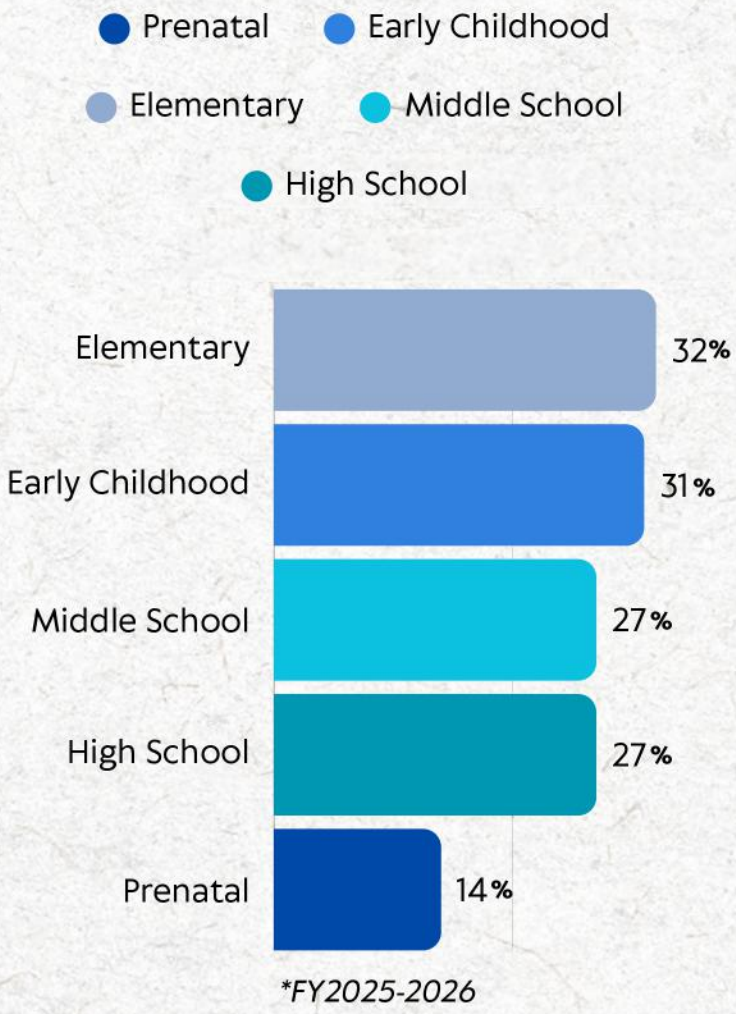
Through family engagement and needs assessment efforts, FACCES identified that educational support needs vary across age groups, with families seeking academic enrichment, school readiness resources, homework support, college and career preparation, and guidance navigating educational systems.

"It was so fun seeing all the teachers dance together and hanging out with my friends," said FACCES Life Ready Teen

In response, FACCES provides targeted workshops, resource connections, and year-round programming designed to meet families where they are and equip both youth and caregivers with the tools needed for long-term success. The Back-to-School Re-Up serves as an important entry point for connecting families to these ongoing supports and strengthening educational outcomes across generations.

The afternoon also included family-friendly games and activities, creating opportunities for families to celebrate together and strengthen connections within the community. By pairing practical resources with meaningful relationships and joyful experiences, the Back-to-School Re-Up helped families start the school year feeling prepared, informed, connected, and supported.

FACCES Families Educational Support Needs Ranked:



*FY2025-2026



Friends of FACCES | October 2025

38% Increase in FACCES Family Memberships (FY2025-2026)

The Annual Friends of FACCES celebration was a special evening dedicated to recognizing the donors, community partners, vendors, volunteers, and friends whose generosity and commitment helped advance the FACCES mission throughout the fiscal year.

Held at the Renaissance Hotel in Downtown Columbus, this event provided an opportunity for the FACCES community to pause, reflect, and express sincere gratitude to the individuals and organizations who contributed their time, resources, expertise, and support to strengthen programs and create meaningful opportunities for youth and families.



The evening was more than a celebration; it was a reminder that lasting community impact is built through partnership. Every donation, volunteer hour, shared resource, community connection, and act of support played a role in helping FACCES serve families in meaningful and lasting ways. As a result, FACCES expanded its membership base by 38% during FY2025-2026, growing to 624 family memberships and extending access to programs, resources, and community connections for more families across Ohio.

Over the years, Friends of FACCES has become a meaningful event that brings the people behind the mission together to celebrate what we have accomplished, honor those who helped make it possible, and look ahead to the continued work of strengthening youth, families, and communities. This growth serves as a powerful reminder that when a community invests in families, the impact extends far beyond a single program or event, creating stronger connections and opportunities for generations to come.

Scan to watch a recap of the night!




FREE
MEDICAL CLINIC
COLUMBUS, OH



Reflecting on Family Gatherings





FACCES Family Gatherings serve as an intentional space where parents and caregivers come together to share their experiences, strengthen connections, and help shape the programs and resources offered within the community. Held on the first Wednesday evening of each month, these gatherings create opportunities for meaningful dialogue centered on the needs, aspirations, and challenges facing families.

Through the Legacy Development Pillar, each gathering is grounded in open conversation around topics that matter most to parents and caregivers, including education, back-to-school readiness, mental wellness, physical health, food access, legacy building, and strategies for strengthening relationships with their children. Families are invited to share their perspectives, identify barriers affecting their households and neighborhoods, and discuss the resources and supports that would be most beneficial to their success.

These conversations are more than opportunities for feedback; they serve as a foundation for partnership. By listening directly to families, FACCES gains valuable insight into the priorities, concerns, and goals of the diverse communities it serves, helping ensure that programs remain responsive, relevant, and family-centered.

Scan to watch a Family Gathering recap!

At the heart of every Family Gathering is a simple but powerful belief: families are experts in their own experiences.

By creating welcoming spaces where caregivers feel heard, valued, and connected, FACCES strengthens relationships, fosters community dialogue, and reinforces its commitment to serving families in ways that reflect their voices, needs, and vision for the future.



- **58.1%** are at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- **20.0%** of participating families were living at or below 150% of the FPL.
- **14.3%** of participating families were living at or below 300% of the FPL.

The majority of FACCES families served are living at or below the Federal Poverty Level, reinforcing the importance of building a village of support through accessible programs, meaningful connections, and resources that help families thrive.









From Need to Action

The launch of the FACCES Donation Drive and Family Food Kit initiative emerged from ongoing conversations with families about food access, affordability, and the challenges of meeting basic household needs. In fact, through our free FACCES family membership, 119 families, representing more than two-thirds of respondents, identified food and nutrition as an area where they needed support.



As rising costs and changes to public assistance programs placed additional strain on many households, families shared concerns about stretching resources, accessing nutritious food, and finding consistent support during times of need. These challenges extend beyond individual households.

Across Central Ohio and throughout the nonprofit sector, organizations are being asked to do more with fewer resources, often operating within tighter budgets while responding to increasing community needs. As demand for services grows, many nonprofits face difficult decisions about how much support they can provide and how many individuals or families they can serve. FACCES recognized both the urgency of these challenges and the opportunity to respond in a meaningful way.

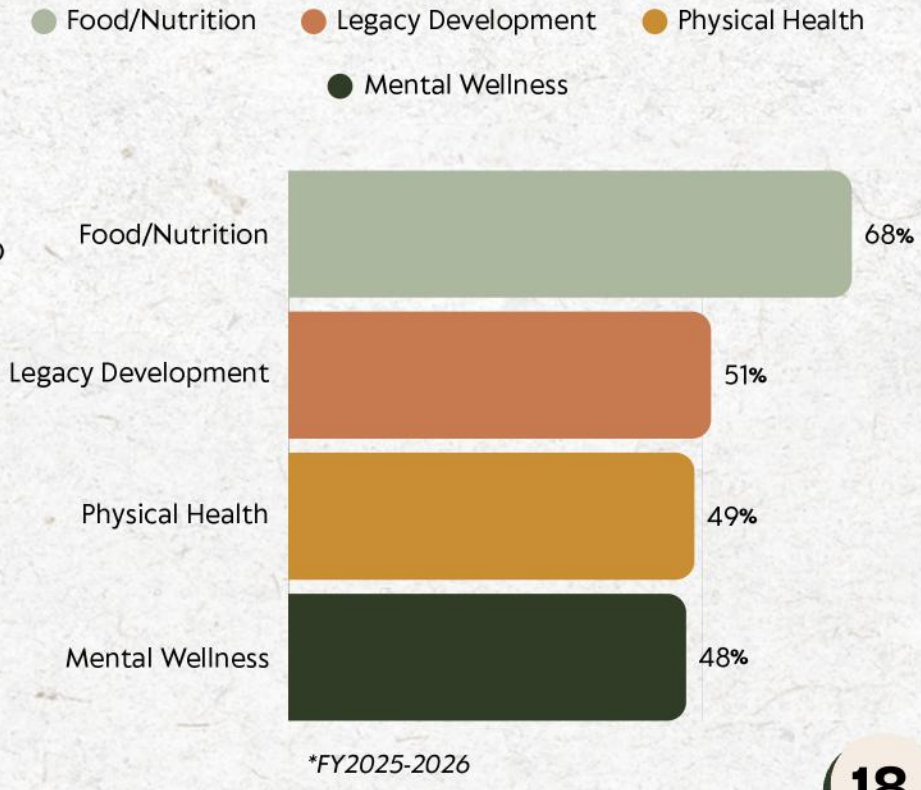
Kroger FRESH FOR EVERYONE
M.F.A.C.A. Marion Franklin Area Civic Association
meijer
mid-ohio food collective
OHIO VOICES for LEARNING
A Reggio Inspired Forum

In response, FACCES launched the Donation Drive and Family Food Kit initiative to help close gaps identified by families and provide an additional layer of support for those navigating food insecurity.

At its core, the initiative reflects a belief that meaningful change happens when communities come together around a shared purpose. What began as a response to an immediate need has grown into another pathway for collective action, demonstrating how individuals, businesses, organizations, and neighbors can work together to strengthen families and expand access to resources. As donations continue to be collected year-round, the program serves as a reminder that community care is not the responsibility of any one organization alone, but a shared commitment to ensuring that every family has the opportunity to thrive.



FACCES Families Resource Needs Ranked:



*FY2025-2026

Scan to see Kroger's donation in action!

Youth-Led Farmer's Market Internship | February 2026

3,148

total Internship hours earned





The launch of the FACCES Youth-Led Farmers Market Internship marked an exciting milestone in the organization's commitment to youth leadership, food access, and workforce development.

Supported through the Ohio Department of Education's Grow Ohio Grant, the inaugural cohort of middle and high school students across Central Ohio participated in a hands-on summer experience that connected them to every stage of the local food system, from cultivation and production to marketing and community engagement.

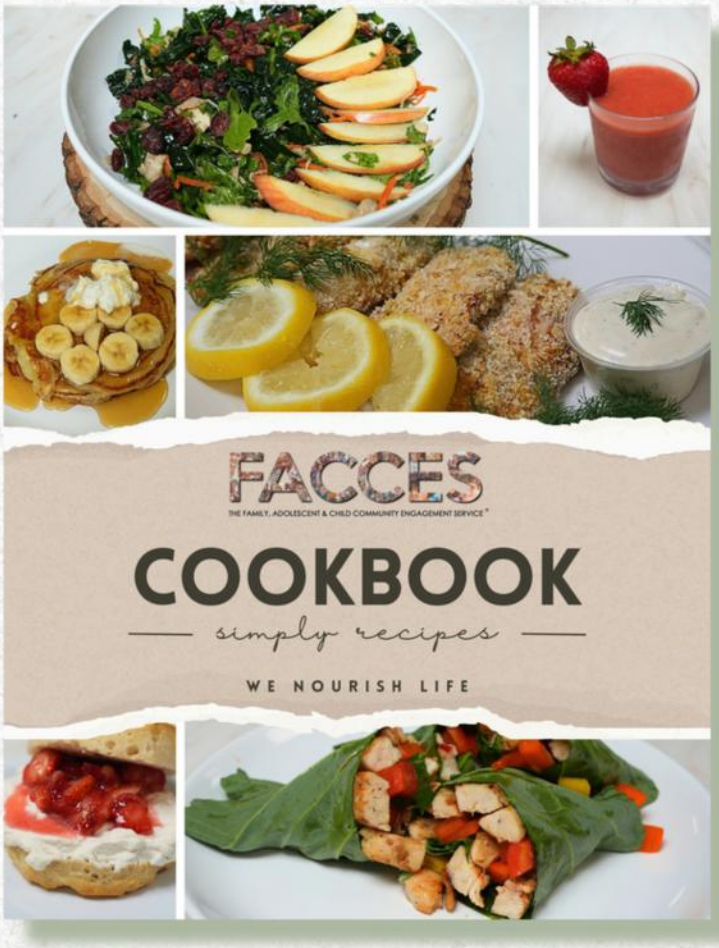
Working across the FACCES Urban Garden, Farm Stand, and Education Kitchen, interns gained practical experience in urban agriculture, culinary arts, entrepreneurship, and creative marketing.

Students harvested fresh ingredients from the Urban Garden, tested recipes in the Education Kitchen, and collaborated to create a youth-developed cookbook that celebrated healthy, locally grown foods. Marketing interns documented the summer experience through photography, video content, social media reels, and graphic design, helping tell the story of the program while building valuable professional skills.

Scan to see the interns at work!

More than an internship, the program empowered young people to see themselves as leaders within the food system. Through hands-on learning, mentorship from industry professionals, and opportunities to contribute meaningful work, participants built confidence, explored future career pathways, and developed skills that will serve them well beyond the program.

Scan for access to the interns' cookbook!





$42,644.45

earned by youth through workforce program participation



Ohio Department of Education & Workforce



March DADness | March 2026



Held on March 27, 2026, March DADness brought families, caregivers, mentors, and community partners together for an annual celebration honoring the fathers, mentors, and male role models who play a vital role in the lives of children and youth. With 80 attendees, the event created a space to celebrate the positive influence of the men who help guide, support, and inspire the next generation.



According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, children with involved fathers have a stronger foundation for overall well-being and are at lower risk for a range of negative outcomes, including criminal activity, substance abuse, emotional and behavioral challenges, poor school performance, and suicide. March DADness served as an opportunity to recognize and strengthen these critical relationships while highlighting the lasting impact that positive male role models have on the lives of children and families.

Scan to watch a recap of March DADness!

Through basketball activities, games, music, food, and interactive experiences, families shared meaningful moments while children and caregivers spent intentional time together reflecting on the values, traditions, and goals that strengthen family relationships.

Empowered Fathers Empower Families

FatherUp is powered by Action for Children

CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY

Mental Health America of Ohio

Franklin County Board of Commissioners HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY







The event also highlighted the power of community collaboration. Local organizations, vendors, and community partners connected families to valuable resources and services, demonstrating a shared commitment to supporting youth and strengthening families throughout Central Ohio.

At its heart, March DADness was an opportunity to honor the relationships that help young people grow with confidence, purpose, and a sense of belonging. Through shared experiences, meaningful conversations, and intentional family engagement, the event celebrated fathers, mentors, caregivers, and other supportive adults whose love, leadership, and encouragement help shape future generations.



> "It means everything to me; I know my dad laid a good foundation for myself and I just want to do the same thing for my son, and hopefully he can do it for his son as well," said FACCES March DADness attendee

COSI Science Festival | April 2026

As part of the annual COSI Science Festival, FACCES and SWACO welcomed families to Eco Explorers on April 30, 2026, for a hands-on STEAM experience centered on science, sustainability, and environmental responsibility. Participants explored how everyday actions can contribute to healthier communities and a healthier planet through interactive activities and guided discovery.

221,016

pounds of food distributed through the Food Pillar



Throughout the day, families traveled across the FACCES campus, engaging in a series of experiential learning stations that combined science, art, agriculture, and environmental education. Using recycled materials, participants transformed everyday items into creative works of art, while plant-based watercolor activities introduced children to natural pigments derived from fruits, vegetables, and herbs grown in the FACCES greenhouse.



Participants also explored the science of plant growth and seed germination through hands-on gardening experiences, creating miniature greenhouses to take home and continue learning beyond the event. Additional activities focused on composting, recycling, soil health, and vermiculture, helping children better understand the role each plays in supporting sustainable food systems and environmental health.

SWACO
FROM WASTE TO RESOURCES

COSI
Center of Science and Industry

By combining creativity, exploration, gardening, and scientific discovery, Eco Explorers encouraged young learners to ask questions, think critically, and engage with the world around them in new ways. From observing tilapia in the FACCES aquaponics tank and learning how fish and plants work together in a sustainable growing system, to creating take-home greenhouses, participants experienced firsthand how science and sustainability intersect in everyday life. The event reflected FACCES' commitment to creating accessible educational experiences that inspire curiosity, promote environmental awareness, and empower youth and families to become thoughtful stewards of their communities and the natural world.



68

hours of experiential garden-based learning and environmental stewardship



“Are the Children Well?” Symposium | April 2026

Building on the success of the inaugural *Are the Children Well? Symposium*, which focused on youth mental wellness, FACCES expanded the conversation this year to explore the importance of physical health through the Move As One: Family Fitness Festival. Hosted during spring break, the event brought youth, families, healthcare professionals, and community partners together for a day dedicated to movement, wellness, prevention, and healthy living.

Recognizing that access to engaging and inclusive wellness opportunities is not always readily available, the festival created a welcoming environment where families could discover practical ways to prioritize their health while enjoying quality time together.

Throughout the day, families engaged in a variety of physical activities designed to make movement fun and accessible for all ages. Community partners led cardio workouts, yoga sessions, dance-based fitness experiences, and other wellness activities that promoted both physical and emotional well-being. Participants also gained access to valuable health resources, including vision and physical health screenings, helping remove barriers to preventative care and increasing awareness around the importance of proactive health management.

49%

of newly enrolled FACCES families in FY2025-2026 identified physical health programs and services as a support need during intake and enrollment





Scan to hear from the fitness instructors at the festival!

CRAWFORD VISION CARE
REALLY GOOD EYE DOCTORS

buckeye health plan

The Mark

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY

STEP WITH GIN

By centering families in the conversation around health, Move As One advanced the broader vision of the *Are the Children Well? Symposium*: creating environments where children and families have the knowledge, resources, and support needed to flourish. The festival demonstrated that addressing wellness is not the responsibility of any one person or organization, but a collective effort that requires families, communities, and partners moving forward together.



256

youth and family members participated in fitness activities and accessed health services through FACCES wellness initiatives





Class of 2026 Celebration | June 2026

Summer Family Gathering: Class of 2026 Celebration brought families, students, and community partners together to celebrate the educational milestones that mark growth, perseverance, and new beginnings. From children reaching their first birthday to students transitioning into kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school, college, career pathways, and workforce training programs, the event recognized the achievements of learners at every stage of their educational journey.





Throughout the celebration, families gathered to honor students' hard work, determination, and resilience as they reached important milestones. The event created opportunities for graduates and their loved ones to pause and reflect on their accomplishments while looking ahead to the possibilities that await them. Highlights included the grad recognition and call-out, music, photo opportunities, and community fellowship, all designed to make students feel seen, celebrated, and supported.



The gathering also reinforced the importance of the partnerships that help young people succeed. Families connected with community resources and support networks while joining a larger celebration of achievement, encouragement, and shared pride. By recognizing accomplishments, FACCES affirmed that every milestone matters and every educational journey deserves to be celebrated.

The Class of 2026 represents a future shaped by persistence, growth, and opportunity. Through this annual gathering, FACCES continued its commitment to uplifting students and families, recognizing that every achievement is supported by a network that makes success possible.



Celebrating 1,000 youth enrolled







Glory to Glory Landscaping & More LLC

Ingram White Castle Foundation

United Way Central Ohio

The Columbus Foundation

Columbus State Community College

Siemer Family Foundation

The Starting Point Learning Center 614.491.1914

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

"The Class of 2026 Celebration made every student feel valued, bringing families together to celebrate achievements and feel supported by a community that truly cares about their success," said FACCES Community Member



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Honorable Mention Donors

Anderson & White Family | The Biddle Family

City of Columbus | Karimah Homes

The Columbus Foundation | United Way




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Ohio
Department of
Children & Youth
Help Me Grow


buckeye
health plan
Your Guide to Better Health


Action for



Thank You for Your Support!

Scan to watch a message from our founder & youth!







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