



INSPIRING HOPE. STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. RESTORING COMMUNITIES.

What parents are saying about DFYF's youth centers

"It's so important to me that the world knows the changes being made on the corner of Ohio Avenue. The support, love and resources my family is offered is PRICELESS, and that is why thank you could never be enough!!" - parent of three kids attending Ohio Avenue Youth Center

"I now truly understand what educating the whole youth means. Attending the Crittenton Center, my kids have gained skills and experiences that they will carry with them for life - social and emotional intelligence, a strong sense of community, resilience, self confidence, the ability to speak up and be heard, the ability to work with other children, the skills for how to resolve conflict, the ability to think creatively, to follow their interests and investigate to solve problems and find answers. Each year I come to



appreciate the Center more and more. I have become a better parent because of support from Ms. Audri, Crittenton Supervisor, and by attending events, performances, get togethers and learning from the staff." - Crittenton Center parent

"Having a child with ADHD can be challenging, especially as a single mom. On several occasions Ohio Avenue's Supervisor, Mr. Jason, has taken time out of his day to encourage me regarding my son. He has soothed my heart with words such as, 'Your son reminds me of a younger me'. What my heart heard is, 'Your son is going to be an AMAZING and CARING man that sees the good in people' if he truly is anything like Mr. Jason." - Ohio Avenue Youth Center parent

"I am a single mom and can't do it all.... So I am forever thankful for the opportunities and blessings from the Center. It is through staff's positive affirmations to all of my children, the tone they set, the expectations laid out, and the unmeasurable support that my children have grown to be better versions of themselves." - Crittenton parent



Mental Health Services in Schools Makes DFYF Part of the Team

DFYF's School Connections Program provides school and home-based mental health counseling to students in Columbus, South-Western, and Worthington City Schools.

Kaley Yutzy, LSW, a Master's Licensed Social Worker, (pictured right), was summoned to work with a student who was having a severe panic attack. The 17 year old had a history of panic attacks, wasn't able to walk and was shaking and crying when Kaley got there. Her teacher stayed and was able to observe how Kaley calmed Celine. Weeks later Kaley received a text from the teacher; Jonathan Carlier wrote:

"Celine had another panic attack. She is settled down now but I wanted to thank you. Watching you handle it the last time gave me the tools and confidence to handle it this time around."

Kaley is considered a key part of the team at each of the schools she serves. Not only does she provide counseling for students, she also provides staff support and leads group sessions. Kaley received a thank you note from Celine, a nice reminder of the ways she helps.



A huge, delicious thank you from a Ready Set Grow parent

Who knew that two referrals to the Ready Set Grow Program would blossom into a story about Little Bird Blue and, later, the biggest cake we've ever seen?

Paula Bollinger, Family Specialist, worked with a family and their two kids in DFYF's Ready Set Grow in-home kindergarten readiness program. Paula shared, "The family moved but one day I got a phone call from the mother who shared she was writing a children's book – something she was excited about and she asked that I would edit her story. I was thrilled to be a part of her journey and when I read her first draft I was hooked! This story is about human emotions told from the perspective of a bird family. It is a perfect example of resiliency and how it is possible to overcome



obstacles." (*Little Bird Blue Learns to Fly* can be ordered through Amazon.)

The first surprise Paula received was when the book arrived in the mail and, turning to the introduction, Paula found her name and the influence of DFYF's Ready Set Grow program mentioned. The second surprise was delivered last week - the biggest, most delicious thank you we've ever received!

Our clients aren't the only ones who benefit from our programs. Parents are a big part of our services and can learn and gain confidence for their own personal goals to come alive!

Columbus Police Dept. Community Immersion Program

Our Ohio Avenue Youth Center kids welcomed Columbus Police Academy Officers and staff from the City Attorney's Office to their summer camp. They ate lunch together and chose an activity session to attend with the kids. The officers also took part in DFYF's interactive group experience, *The Life Lottery, a simulation of trauma & resiliency*, that provides an opportunity to understand the impact that early life traumas may have on individuals later in life. It's helpful to understand how taking a trauma-informed approach in response to problem behaviors can either escalate or calm a situation.



"Every minute of the event was a beautiful celebration"



Our State of the Child event showcased music and dance performances along with poems from the kids. Our young entrepreneurs got a chance to set up shop in the lobby. Ronnie and Ryan came on stage to share information about their business, Toon Shirts, and DFYF's

Entrepreneurship Program. Thank you to all who supported and helped us raise over \$133,000 for DFYF programs and services in central Ohio.

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Youth Entrepreneurs

DFYF's Entrepreneurship Program began in 2019 to educate youth about business, hard work, and fiscal responsibility. At the beginning of the school year, youth are given the opportunity to pitch their business ideas. After the selection process, they are responsible for the development of their business name, purpose of the business, create logo's, submit budgets, develop their proto type, discuss marketing strategies, construct plans to work towards deadlines, order supplies, receive constructive criticism, practice their public pitches, and so much more. An example of the uniqueness of DFYF's after-school programming.



Gratitude for our Community

We appreciate all the support from our community. Parker Lee Foundation hosts their PBR 10K' event to raise funds for DFYF (check out their 2 Fine 9's Golf Outing Sept 22) and Market Bar chose us for May's Cocktail for a Cause. The kids have enjoyed cookouts hosted by Besa and Victoria's Secret, AEP volunteers helped us with projects, and Parsons North Brewing chose DFYF as their second quarter charity for 2023. Parsons also partnered with Dewey's Pizza for "DewBrew" with proceeds going to DFYF.



We couldn't provide counseling & education programs without our community!



Crittenton Community Center is coming together!

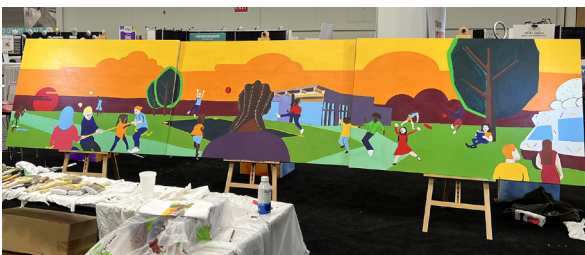
Community Garden is planted
(thank you NBC4 & Besa)



Social Justice Tree is installed
(thank you artist Brian Riegel)



43 foot "Unity" art mural is up
(thank you 950 community artists)



"Field Day" mural unveiling soon
(thank you NAMTA, Miles Balfour & DFYF kids)



Amphitheater in process (thank
you Marker & DesignGroup)



Congresswoman Beatty and some of
our kids at the 1M check presentation
(thank you capital campaign donors)

The Wolfe Gymnasium and other building features are just waiting to be shown
off at the Grand Opening Celebration. Stay tuned for the date and time - coming soon!