



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2024

Contact: Duane Casares, LISW-S
CEO, Directions for Youth & Families
Phone: 614-294-2661
Email: dcasares@dfyf.org

Directions for Youth & Families and See Kids Dream Announce Merger to Amplify Impact in Central Ohio

Columbus, Ohio – Directions for Youth & Families (DFYF), a leader in providing community-based mental and behavioral health services, and See Kids Dream (SKD), a nonprofit dedicated to youth education and leadership, are pleased to announce their merger effective July 1, 2024. This union is set to enhance educational and family services across Central Ohio, creating a comprehensive support network for our community's youth and their families.

A Unified Vision for Greater Impact

The merger combines DFYF's extensive experience in family support services with SKD's innovative educational programs. Together, they will provide a more robust and comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of families and schools in the region.

"Our goal has always been to support families and young people to achieve their fullest potential," said Duane Casares, CEO of Directions for Youth & Families. "By merging with See Kids Dream, we are poised to broaden our reach and deepen our impact within Central Ohio. This is an exciting opportunity to better serve our community."

Benefits of the Merger

- **Enhanced Program Offerings:** The merger will result in a wider variety of services and programs, directly addressing more comprehensive needs of youth and their families.
- **Increased Operational Efficiency:** By combining resources, the new entity will maximize the impact of donations and funding, directing more resources into programs rather than administrative costs.
- **Expanded Reach:** The partnership will extend services to more schools and neighborhoods, increasing access to essential educational and support services across Central Ohio.

Both organizations are committed to a seamless transition that will not interrupt services to current participants. All programs currently offered by both DFYF and SKD will continue without disruption, ensuring that families and students receive the ongoing support they rely on.

"As we bring our organizations together, our top priority is to ensure that the families, children, and communities we serve experience no lapse in service," said Brenda Buchy, Executive Director of See Kids Dream. "We are stronger together and are excited about the opportunities this merger creates to do even more good in the lives of those we serve."

For more detailed information, please see the attached Frequently Asked Questions

About Directions for Youth & Families

Directions for Youth & Families, established in 1899, is a nonprofit leader in providing innovative, trauma-informed care and prevention services to build healthy individuals, strong families, and safe communities in Central Ohio. Grounded in values of quality, diversity, accessibility, and collaboration, DFYF offers a range of programs that embrace the unique strengths of our community. For more information, visit dfyf.org.

About See Kids Dream

Founded in 2008, See Kids Dream (SKD) empowers youth to lead change in their communities through service-learning programs in partnership with Central Ohio elementary and middle schools. SKD's mission is to cultivate the skills, motivation, and confidence in young people to make our world a better place. For more information, visit seekidsdream.org.

###