

# We THRIVE!

*Community Wellness in Action*

## ANNUAL REPORT

Creating a culture of health, safety, and vitality in communities and schools throughout Hamilton County.

2022





## ABOUT WeTHRIVE!

Since 2009, Hamilton County Public Health's WeTHRIVE!<sup>SM</sup> initiative has worked with communities and schools throughout Hamilton County to create a culture of health, safety, and vitality. Today, WeTHRIVE! impacts more than 300,000 people in 24 communities and eight school districts.



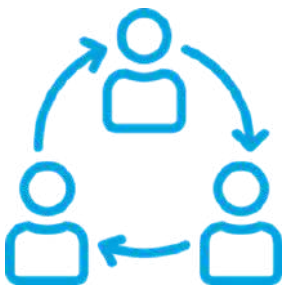
### SUPPORT

WeTHRIVE! Population Health Specialists help start a team, offer assistance, and connect the teams to resources.



### DATA

The most up-to-date public health data is shared to help determine areas of need and plan for the future.



### COLLABORATION

The WeTHRIVE! initiative fosters a culture of collaboration by bringing together communities, schools, and partner organizations.



### RECOGNITION & CELEBRATION

The initiative is all about celebrating the positive progress and changes that our amazing teams work so hard to implement!

*The WeTHRIVE! initiative is a paradigm shift that engages communities and schools to make meaningful and sustainable policy, environmental, and infrastructure changes where people live, work, learn, and play, ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to thrive.*



## 2022 IN REVIEW

Throughout 2022, WeTHRIVE! communities and schools continued to show how they can be adaptable, resilient, and think outside the box. WeTHRIVE! staff worked hard to re-engage WeTHRIVE! communities, expand WeTHRIVE! community and school teams, complete assessments, develop action plans, and provide support and resources to teams.

### Community Highlights

#### FOOD ACCESS

WeTHRIVE! community teams partnered with Ohio State University Extension–Hamilton County to offer nutrition and healthy cooking classes to residents and with the Freestore Foodbank to host Produce Pop-Ups that provided free fresh produce to community members.



#### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

WeTHRIVE! community teams worked to ensure residents had access to safe physical activity opportunities including yoga, fitness classes, and pickleball.



#### TOBACCO-FREE POLICY

Delhi Township adopted a [Tobacco Free Playground](#) policy, protecting young lungs from exposure to tobacco products.



#### COMMUNITY CLEAN UPS

WeTHRIVE! communities encouraged residents to clean up their community through Walk With a Purpose programs and formal community clean-up events.



### School Highlights

#### MENTAL HEALTH

WeTHRIVE! schools recognized the significant impact COVID had on mental health and worked with partners to ensure the mental health needs of students, staff, and families were being met.

#### FOOD ACCESS & EDUCATION

WeTHRIVE! schools play a unique role in ensuring students have access to healthy food. Schools hosted healthy cooking classes and expanded access to healthy food through mobile distribution, food pantries, and school gardens.

#### SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICIES

Mt. Healthy City Schools, North College Hill City Schools, and St. Bernard-Elmwood Place City Schools adopted updated school wellness policies highlighting the districts' commitment to the health and safety of their students, staff, and families.

# 2022 INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



## Neighborhood Navigators

Neighborhood Navigators are community members who are trained and provided a small stipend to be extensions of WeTHRIVE! staff within their community. Neighborhood Navigators help to facilitate their community's WeTHRIVE! team, develop and implement community action plans, and help to identify and bring resources to their community with the support of WeTHRIVE! staff. One to two communities are selected each year by staff, who recruit up to two Neighborhood Navigators per community.



[Margaret Wienholts, 2022 Neighborhood Navigator for the Village of Lockland.](#)

## New Focus Area Assessments

In 2022, new Pathway Focus Area Assessments were piloted with WeTHRIVE! communities. Each assessment involves two components: 1) The Community Experience; 2) The Administrative Policy, Systems & Environmental Change (PSE) Assessment. These new assessments are designed to help track incremental changes within communities. After communities complete both components of the assessment, community teams receive a summary and recommendations from WeTHRIVE! staff. Communities that completed a Focus Area Assessment said they appreciated that the new assessments were more focused and easier to understand/complete.

## Funding Alignment & Opportunities

In 2022, staff identified and secured additional funding to support and expand the WeTHRIVE! initiative. They also worked to better align existing division funding to the goals of the WeTHRIVE! School initiative. In total \$351,000 of additional funding was secured for implementation of strategies that align and support the mission of WeTHRIVE!. Of the total funding, \$120,000 was provided directly to WeTHRIVE schools and communities to implement identified strategies.

- Health Eating and Active Living (HEAL) grant from Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
- Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) grant from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Enhanced Operations Funding (EO22) from Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH) grant from Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

## Community Data Profiles

WeTHRIVE! staff worked with HCPH Epidemiology staff to develop and launch WeTHRIVE! Community Data Profiles. The Profiles provide WeTHRIVE! community teams with an annual report that includes metrics related to demographics, economic stability, neighborhood and built environment, healthcare and health outcomes, and an overview of WeTHRIVE! activities within the community. Community Data Profiles will be shared with WeTHRIVE! community teams during the first quarter of each year.

## WeTHRIVE! Champions

WeTHRIVE! hosts an Annual Recognition Event celebrating communities and schools. During the event, the initiative recognizes WeTHRIVE! Champions who are nominated by peers.

### 2022 Finalists:

Leadership & Initiative: [Annie Hess, WeTHRIVE! in Reading](#)

Health for All Award: [Ron Wilson, WeTHRIVE! in Forest Park](#)

Family Engagement: [The Heights Movement](#)

Service to the Community: [Morgan Whaley, resident, Mt. Healthy](#)

Partner Award: [1N5](#)



# 2022: A CLOSER LOOK

# \$75,172

Grants, in-kind support, donations, and volunteer hours secured by WeTHRIVE! communities & schools

## SUPPORT

### Communities

- 147 WeTHRIVE! community teams meetings
- 80 Community key champion/stakeholder meetings
- 14 Community team recruitment meetings

### Schools

- 48 WeTHRIVE! school team meetings
- 42 School key champion/stakeholder meetings
- 11 School team recruitment meetings

### WeTHRIVE! Staff

- 10 Partner meetings
- 10 Presentations to WeTHRIVE! Community Councils
- 2 Presentations to WeTHRIVE! School Boards

## DATA

12 Assessments Completed  
Community Focus Area & School WellSAT-3.0/School Health Index

24 [Community Data Profiles](#) Disseminated

2 Community Health Assessments (CHA)  
Miami Twp & Elmwood Place

## COLLABORATION

### LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

3 meetings  
41 participants

Community and school teams connect, learn, and support each other. In June of 2022, the Collaborative met in-person for the first time since March 2020.

### IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

3 meetings  
58 participants

[Partner organizations](#) send representatives to network and hear updates about the WeTHRIVE! initiative and the work of community and school teams.

### SPEED NETWORKING EVENT

14 partner organizations  
13 community/school representatives

Community and school teams meet one-on-one with community partners to share what their team is working on, learn more about the partner agency, and identify potential opportunities to work together.

## CELEBRATION

### COMMUNICATIONS

**Monthly Newsletter:** 12 issues  
**Website:** 4,306 unique views  
**Social Media:** 383 posts with a reach of 50,667  
**Stories:** 19 Stories posted on website  
7 Stories published in Cincinnati Enquirer

### ANNUAL RECOGNITION

18 Communities recognized  
8 School districts recognized  
5 Community Champion Award winners





*"ALONE, WE CAN DO SO  
LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN  
DO SO MUCH"*

-Helen Keller



*Thank you to all of the WeTHRIVE! Communities, Schools, and Partner Organizations for their continued dedication. WeTHRIVE! greatly appreciates the opportunity to work together to integrate health where people live, work, learn, and play. We recognize your help in creating a future where all individuals have the opportunity to thrive.*

*-The WeTHRIVE! Team*





# We THRIVE!

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## LEARN MORE

[WatchUsTHRIVE.org](http://WatchUsTHRIVE.org)

## WE'RE SOCIAL

Follow us on your favorite social media platform



## CONTACT

[ContactWeTHRIVE@hamilton-co.org](mailto:ContactWeTHRIVE@hamilton-co.org)



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

