We THRIVE!™

Community Wellness in Action™

ANNUAL REPORT

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

Since 2009, Hamilton County Public Health's WeTHRIVE!™ 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.
2023 IN REVIEW

Throughout 2023, 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

COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS
WeTHRIVE! community teams hosted various events that brought their communities together. Events included holiday walks, entertainment events, and community educational opportunities. All events allowed for residents to feel connected to their neighbors and support their mental well-being.

FALL PREVENTION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
WeTHRIVE! community teams worked to ensure residents had access to safe physical activity opportunities including yoga, fitness classes, and pickleball. Additionally, teams partnered with organizations to host fall-prevention and safety classes.

FOOD ACCESS
WeTHRIVE! community teams hosted food distribution events, community cooking classes, and supported community gardens.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
WeTHRIVE! communities encouraged residents to support the environment by hosting clean-up and recycling events, as well as planting new trees and plants.

School Highlights

MENTAL HEALTH
School teams worked with mental health WeTHRIVE! partners to offer various calming and stress management strategies to students and staff. Teams worked to provide calming rooms and kits and held mental health trainings for staff and families.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
WeTHRIVE! schools worked to provide opportunities and access to physical activity for both students and staff. They offered exercise classes for staff, after school exercise programming for students, and biometric screenings for staff.

SOCIAL CONNECTION
WeTHRIVE! schools focused on social connection by hosting events such as wellness fairs, multi-cultural fairs, and math night to foster connection among parents, teachers, and students.
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.

New Partners

In 2023, WeTHRIVE! brought on three new partners to help support the work of our WeTHRIVE! communities and schools. LISC (Local Initiatives Support Cooperation) will help to connect WeTHRIVE! teams with partners and resources to improve quality of life in communities in a comprehensive way. The Well was also brought on as a partner in 2023. Its mission is to improve the mental and emotional well-being, connectedness, and effectiveness of all persons through arts integration, mindfulness, music, movement, and healing-centered practices. Last but not least, Joining Forces joined WeTHRIVE! as a partner. They aim to prevent and reduce the impact of childhood adversity by promoting resilient families and equitable communities. Welcome to our new 2023 partners!

Funding Alignment & Opportunities

In 2023, 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! initiative. In total, $756,650 of additional funding was secured for implementation of strategies that align and support the mission of WeTHRIVE!. Of the total funding, $600,000 was provided directly to WeTHRIVE! schools and communities to implement identified strategies. Below are some of the grants that contributed.

- Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) grant from Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
- Enhanced Operations Funding (EO22) from Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
- Tobacco Prevention and Cessation grant from Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

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.

2023 Champions:
Leadership & Initiative: Alyse Capaccio, WeTHRIVE! in Reading
Health for All Award: Mark Docter, Winton Woods City School District
Service to the Community: Gwen Chesser, WeTHRIVE! in Golf Manor
Service to the Community: Mimi Anderson, WeTHRIVE! in North College Hill
Partner Award: Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library
2023: A CLOSER LOOK

SUPPORT

Communities
- 174 WeTHRIVE! community teams meetings
- 82 Community key champion/stakeholder meetings
- 17 Community team recruitment meetings

Schools
- 32 WeTHRIVE! school team meetings
- 34 School key champion/stakeholder meetings
- 11 School team recruitment meetings

WeTHRIVE! Staff
- 13 Partner meetings
- 2 New positions created

DATA

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

24 Community Data Profiles Disseminated

2 Community Health Assessments (CHA)
Addyston & Cheviot

COLLABORATION

LEARNING COLLABORATIVE
3 meetings
83 participants

Community and school teams connect, learn, and support each other.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
2 meetings
59 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
33 participants

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: 5,155 unique views
Social Media: 538 posts with a reach of 64,889
Stories: 22 posted on website
3 published in Cincinnati Enquirer

ANNUAL RECOGNITION

22 communities recognized
8 school districts recognized
5 community Champion Award winners

$789,000
Grants, in-kind support, donations, and volunteer hours secured by WeTHRIVE! communities & schools
"IF EVERYONE IS MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER, THEN SUCCESS TAKES CARE OF ITSELF"

-Henry Ford

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
LEARN MORE
WatchUsTHRIVE.org

WE'RE SOCIAL
Follow us on your favorite social media platform

CONTACT
ContactWeTHRIVE@hamilton-co.org

HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.