FACCES

THE FAMILY, ADOLESCENT & CHILD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICE®

2024 - 2025
IMPACT REPORT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Founder Statement

4 The FACCES Way

5 Food Pillar

8 Physical Health Pillar

11 Mental Wellness Pillar

14 Education Pillar

17 Legacy Development Pillar

21 "A.T.C.W.?" Reflection

22 Thank You!

A REFLECTION FROM OUR FOUNDER:

As we look back, I draw inspiration from the ancient greeting, "Are the children well?" This thought has permeated my reflections throughout this past year, urging me to forge deeper connections centered around the wellness of our children. The essence of this greeting emphasizes the importance of caring for our youth, reminding us that their well-being is a shared responsibility.

Supporting our youth requires more than just programs; it calls for the collective strength of a tribe, a network of community members, engaged stakeholders, and dedicated partners. This year's impact report is dedicated to every individual who has come together to create a nurturing village for our youth and their families. At FACCES, we recognize that a holistic approach is essential to support children and their families, which is why we have established our five pillars. Together, these pillars create a foundation of support that empowers our children to succeed.

I am immensely grateful for our incredible team, whose passion and commitment shine through in every interaction. Thank you to the children and families we serve — your stories are the heart of our work. Your resilience inspires us, and it is a privilege to bear witness to the love and support that flourish in our shared space.

In this report, you will find stories that illustrate the real impact we are making together. These narratives highlight our hub as a place where every child receives the care they deserve, where we help shape a promising future.

As we continue this important work, I am committed to ensuring that our community remains a place where every child feels valued and supported.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Melissa Johnson
Founder

THE POWER OF A HOLISTIC APPROACH:

At FACCES, we know that no single factor determines whether a child or family thrives. True wellness comes from addressing the whole picture.

That's why our model is holistic by design, rooted in five interconnected pillars:

- **Food:** Access to nourishment and nutrition education.
- **Physical Health:** Building strong bodies through movement and care.
- **Mental Wellness:** Supporting emotional resilience and stability.
- **Education:** Equipping youth with skills and knowledge for success.
- **Legacy Development:** Empowering families to create lasting impact across generations.

When families receive comprehensive support, children are healthier, more confident, and better prepared to thrive. FACCES stands apart as a community hub that connects, equips, and empowers, proving that when the children are well, we as a whole are well.

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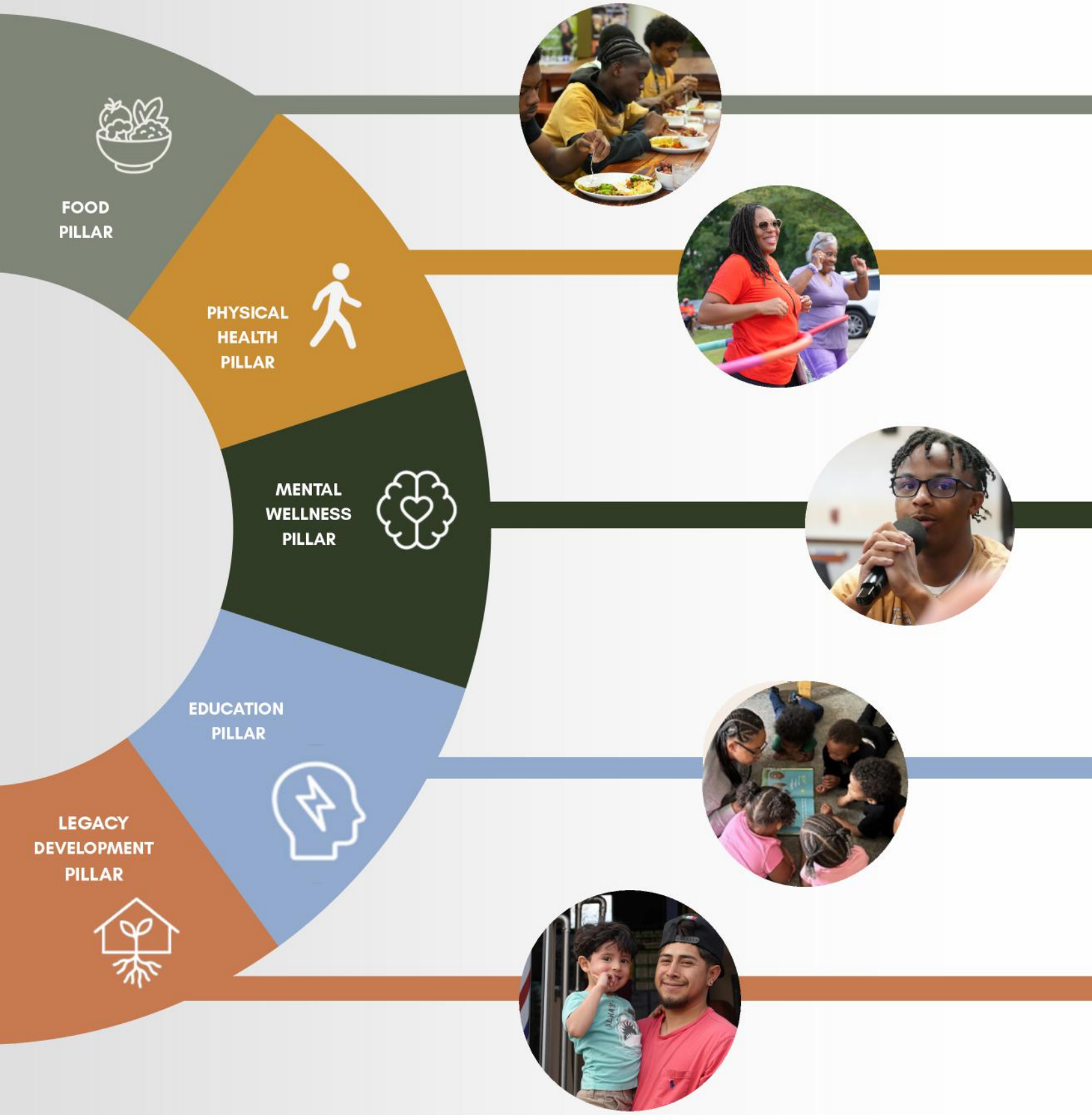

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The FACCES Way:

Promoting the **wellness** of adolescents and children by **being a hub** that **connects** the lifestyle essentials contributing to **thriving families.**

Accomplished holistically **WITH COMMUNITY** through five pillars: **FOOD, PHYSICAL HEALTH, MENTAL WELLNESS, EDUCATION AND LEGACY DEVLOPMENT**.

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Food, Wellness, and Learning:

Jordyn's story

At FACCES, the pillars of Food, Mental Wellness, and Education don't stand alone; they overlap to create a full-circle model of wellness. Jordyn, a student in both our after-school and summer youth programs, demonstrates the power of this connection.

Through the Food Pillar, Jordyn has discovered the journey of food from seed to plate. She has planted and harvested vegetables in the Urban Garden and transformed them into meals in the FACCES Kitchen. Working alongside the FACCES Chef, she has gained not only nutritional knowledge and cooking skills but also confidence, creativity, and pride in what she can accomplish.

Most importantly, Jordyn carries these lessons home. She shared: **"One day after school, I was about to order food from a delivery service and remembered, 'Oh yeah, I know how to make meals.'"** Instead of ordering out, she prepared dinner herself, proving that what she learns at FACCES extends far beyond our programs.

Jordyn continues to return to FACCES because it is more than an after-school program. It is a place where food, wellness, and education overlap, helping her find balance, build skills, and develop independence. Her story is a reflection of our guiding question, "Are the children well?" And with Jordyn, the answer is a confident yes.

FOOD PILLAR

WE NOURISH LIFE.

220,842

POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

2,284

FREE MEALS PREPARED AND SERVED

2,356

VOLUNTEER SLOTS FILLED

"FACCES has helped me see food as fuel for my family. I'm changing the way I eat to be healthier and more present for my kids and to encourage them to make good choices too."

-FACCES Family Member

In 2024, FACCES received the Gold level Turnip the Beet! Award from the USDA. This award recognizes sponsors who go above and beyond to provide meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious for children during the summer months.

When school is out, many families face added challenges in keeping healthy food on the table. FACCES bridges this gap by ensuring kids have access to daily meals that fuel growth, development, and learning, even outside the classroom.

Earning this national distinction affirms FACCES' commitment to nourishing children, addressing food insecurity, and creating a strong foundation for families to thrive year-round.

FULL CIRCLE: FROM SEED TO PLATE

The Food Pillar's strength is its full-circle approach, starting with access at the Fresh Market, growing through the Urban Garden and gatherings, and culminating in the creativity and nourishment of the FACCES Kitchen. This journey empowers youth to take ownership of their wellness, building skills, confidence, and connection every step of the way.

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Healthy Families, Strong Futures With The King Family

For the King family, the Physical Health Pillar became more than exercise; it became a foundation for learning, access, and connection.
Through anatomy education and movement opportunities, the family discovered new ways to grow together. **"Our kids started asking questions about their bodies we'd never even thought about,**" they shared. **"It opened the door to learning as a family."**

This curiosity blended naturally with the Education Pillar, helping the children see health as a lifelong subject worth exploring.
Beyond movement, the Kings also turned to FACCES as their trusted hub for health resources. Mom leaned on Buckeye Health during allergy season, ensuring her kids had the information and care they needed to stay well.

Access to nutritious food, medical guidance, and opportunities for physical activity worked together to alleviate stress, bring joy, and enhance the family's mental well-being. "The stress we carried felt lighter when we were dancing, stretching, or just moving together," they said.

What continues to bring the King family back to FACCES is the way each pillar works together and giving them the tools and support they need to strengthen their children's health and build a brighter future.

PHYSICAL HEALTH PILLAR

WE ADVANCE VITALITY.

8

FAMILY FITNESS MEET-UPS

MOST FREQUENTLY TREATED AT FACCES:

- DIABETES
- HYPERTENSION
- HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE
- ARTHRITS
- DEPRESSION

Family Fitness Tuesdays at FACCES are a signature initiative advancing both health and family connection. These sessions are intentionally designed to be inclusive, engaging participants of all ages and fitness levels. With classes ranging from yoga and step aerobics to stretching and breathwork, families experience a variety of ways to move, relax, and grow together.

By coming together through movement, families not only improve their physical well-being but also strengthen relationships through shared experiences, reinforcing the holistic approach to wellness that FACCES champions.

"Working with FACCES is special because it's not just about fitness, it's about families. I love seeing parents and children moving side by side, encouraging each other, and realizing that wellness can be something they build together. Every class feels like a chance to strengthen both bodies and bonds."

– FACCES Fitness Instructor

WELLNESS MADE ACCESSIBLE, FAMILIES MADE STRONGER

The Physical Health Pillar at FACCES makes wellness a shared experience. From Family Fitness, with certified instructors leading yoga, step aerobics, stretching, and breathwork, to the OSU Wexner Medical Center Community Care Coach, providing on-site physicals, labs, vaccines, and more, families have consistent opportunities to stay active and access essential care. Together, these efforts remove barriers, strengthen bonds, and help families thrive.

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Building Emotional Resilience With The Calhoun's

For Ariel Calhoun, creating a nurturing environment for her family has always been a priority. When her son Steven was born, she found that space at FACCES, where both of them continue to grow and thrive.

One of Ariel's favorite parts of Steven's journey at FACCES has been watching him learn to understand and manage his emotions. Through the Mental Wellness Pillar, Steven has gained a deeper sense of emotional intelligence, learning how to recognize his feelings, self-regulate, and respond in healthy ways.

Ariel reflects that this growth gives her confidence for his future: **"Because Steven has learned how to self-regulate, I know he'll always be able to come talk to me at any age, with confidence and trust."**

Since 2023, the Mental Wellness pillar plays a vital role in ensuring that both children and families have the tools to care for their mental health. By focusing on education, awareness, and preventative approaches, families like Ariel and Steven's are empowered to understand that mental wellness is within their control and can be strengthened through everyday practices.

Steven's journey shows how the pillars work hand in hand to strengthen both children and their families. Their story is a reminder that when families are supported holistically, children are not only well, they are thriving.

Check out the Calhoun's Video

MENTAL WELLNESS PILLAR

WE ORCHESTRATE RESILIENCE.

212

PARTICIPATED IN MENTAL WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

4

NEW MENTAL WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

During the 2024–2025 year, the Mental Wellness Committee advanced both community-focused and broader approaches to supporting mental health, hosting seven workshops that promoted resilience, connection, and emotional well-being for families.

Key events, including the "Are the Children Well?" Symposium, Parent/Family Group Discussions, and Self-Compassion Workshops provided participants with practical tools and a safe space to explore mental wellness, guided by dedicated partners.

In May 2025, FACCES expanded its impact by offering Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) certification to community members, including social workers, nurses, and mental health advocates, through the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

"FACCES families left our sessions not just with knowledge, but with real tools and the confidence to recognize stress and respond with compassion."

-Mental Health First Aid Instructor

HEALTHY MINDS, RESILIENT FAMILIES

The Mental Wellness Pillar at FACCES creates safe spaces where families can learn, heal, and grow together. Through workshops like Parent/Family Group Sessions and Mental Health First Aid training, caregivers and youth gain tools to manage stress, build resilience, and support one another. The 2025 "Are the Children Well?" Symposium opened the door for honest conversations about the state of children's mental health while community partners brought expertise and encouragement. These efforts make mental wellness more accessible, strengthen family connections, and ensure children are supported by a community that cares.

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Prepared for Today, Ready for Tomorrow: Jahir's Way

At FACCES, the Life Ready Teens program focuses on equipping high school students with the tools they need to thrive academically while also giving them a safe, supportive space to connect with others their age.

For Jahir, he describes the program as a place where he can grow as both a student and a young adult. He has learned how to manage money, take steps toward starting driver's education, and strengthen relationships that will guide him into the future. These lessons have not only prepared him for practical milestones but also built his confidence in navigating what comes next.

"FACCES has helped me find tools to manage money better, get ready for driver's ed, and build relationships I wouldn't have had otherwise. It's teaching me skills I'll carry for life."

Through the Teenage. Adolescent, Leadership Conversation (TALC) series, he's had the chance to socialize with peers, listen to different perspectives, learn from one another and lead in finding solutions to the issues that impact them the most.

"I appreciate being able to hang out with people my age and find moments to reconnect. After spending hours attending school virtually, this gives me a moment to reconnect with others."

His journey shows how preparing for academic success and finding personal balance go hand in hand, ensuring that teens like him are not only ready to graduate, but ready to thrive.

FACCES K Ohio READY

FACCES LIFE READY FOR TEENS 14-17

BABY ON BOARD

EDUCATION PILLAR

WE POWER POTENTIAL.

341

YOUTH SERVED THROUGH EDUCATIONAL ONLINE PLATFORM

124

YOUTH PARTICIPATED ONSITE

205

SCREENINGS AND PASSION PROJECTS GENERATED

In 2024–2025, FACCES welcomed new parents into the Baby on Board Social Club, a place to celebrate the joy of a new baby while learning about early childhood development. Through fun events, free health screenings, and personalized activities, families gained tools to support their child's growth from the very start.

Our 2025 Summer Experience engaged students, K-12, in hands-on learning rooted in all five pillars, offering activities that built academic skills, emotional resilience, healthy habits, and strong connections. This integrated approach not only enriched summer learning but also empowered youth to grow with confidence and curiosity, preparing them for success in school and beyond.

FROM BORN READY TO LIFE READY

The Education Pillar at FACCES supports learning from the very beginning, starting in pregnancy and continuing through high school graduation and beyond. Through programs like Born Ready for new parents and Life Ready for teens, families gain tools to support academic success at every stage.

Online learning, afterschool enrichment, and mentoring opportunities help children build confidence, curiosity, and lifelong skills. These efforts ensure every child is prepared for school, life, and the future, with a strong foundation and a family that grows and learns together.

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Dreams Today, Legacies Tomorrow: The Rahaman's Story

Kevin Rahaman and his son, Blaek, are a powerful example of how the Legacy Development Pillar at FACCES shapes futures while strengthening families. Over the years, Kevin has enrolled both of his sons in FACCES summer and afterschool programs, and for the past two summers, Blaek has flourished in an environment that nurtures his growth and potential.

With his outgoing, giggly personality, Blaek embraces every opportunity to learn, make new friends, explore, and proudly declare, **"One day, I'm going to be famous!"** His confidence and curiosity reflect the kind of foundation Legacy Development is designed to build: one where children see possibilities for themselves and feel supported to pursue them.

For Kevin, the experience goes beyond programming. **"FACCES isn't just your standard community hub, it's more! Everyone feels like family. As soon as you walk in, you're welcomed."** His words reflect a blend of support and inclusivity that creates more than memories; it builds a foundation of belonging, resilience, and possibility that carries forward through generations.

Kevin and Blaek's story illustrates how a focus on legacy strengthens both children and their families. Their experience reminds us that when families are supported with guidance, opportunities, and connection, children don't just grow, they thrive, carrying the impact of today into the generations of tomorrow.

Check out Kevin and Blaek's Video

LEGACY DEVELOPMENT PILLAR

WE DISTRUPT BARRIERS.

208

FREE NEW FACCES FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS DISTRIBUTED

76

COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROVIDING RESOURCES

Under the Legacy Development pillar, FACCES remains committed to building a sustainable and empowering future, one that outlives our immediate efforts.

In 2025, FACCES hosted March DADness, a one-day event, bringing together fathers, mentors, and community leaders for a day filled with basketball, games, music, and good food. The energy went beyond the competition; it was about connection. Youth were able to laugh, play, and bond with positive male role models who showed up for them in meaningful ways.

ROOTED FUTURES, LASTING IMPACT

Legacy, one of our core values, encourages families to shift perspectives, instill enduring principles, and build strong relationships that pass on purpose and prosperity across generations. We proudly supported FACCES Families at various levels of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL). Of FACCES families, 57.0% are at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), 20.9% are between 100% and 150% FPL, and 22.1% are between 150% and 300% FPL. These figures showcase the strength of families in our community. As a village, we are committed to providing the support and resources families need to thrive.

The FACCES Marketplace was launched in 2024–2025 to help reduce financial burdens and expand access to essential household items. Made possible through the generous support of our community partners and their donations, families with a FACCES Membership have received everyday necessities with compassion and dignity. Together, we are serving the community, reinforcing the belief that legacy begins with care, dignity, and equal opportunity for all.

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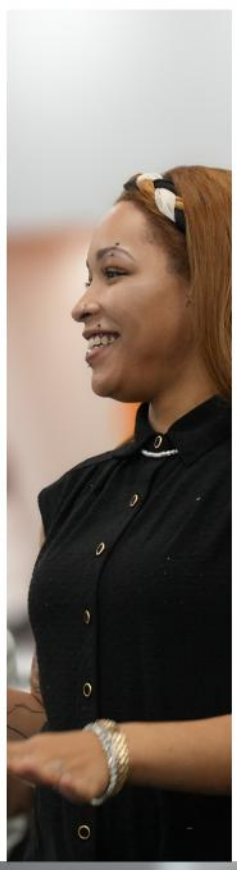
"Are the Children Well?"

Symposium

May 27, 2025



"Attending the FACCES symposium opened my eyes to the deeper ways we can truly see our children, by being present, listening with intention, and observing with compassion. It reminded me that emotional well-being starts with our awareness and presence."

– "Are the Children Well?" Symposium Attendee

Scan here
check out our
"Are The Children Well"
Symposium Recap Reel

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Honorable Mention Donors

Anderson & White Family | The Biddle Family | City of Columbus
Columbus Gives Back | Karimah Homes | Thomas Nott | United Way

We extend our deepest gratitude to all of our key partners, supporters, and donors whose unwavering commitment continues to fuel the mission of FACCES. Whether through time, talent, or treasure, each contribution has made a lasting difference in the lives of the families and children we serve. We proudly celebrate those who stand with us, those who show up, give generously, and believe in the power of community.

FACCES
URBAN GARDEN

FACCES

telhio
Credit Union

I'VE
GOT
THIS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Because of your support, we can confidently and joyfully say, with a resounding "YES," that the children at FACCES are well.

GET INVOLVED!

Support FACCES through the Three "T's": Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Spread the word, donate, volunteer your skills, or share resources.

Every effort helps us provide healthy food, education, and vital support for children and families to thrive!

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