



# WVFEC

# Engaging Grandfamilies for Student Success

Wayne High School

## Summary

Wayne High School is working closely with grandfamilies to identify needs and support student success. This outreach program aims to educate, engage, and provide resources for sustainable positive outcomes.

## Wayne High School



Wayne, Wayne County



17% Residents are below the poverty line



550 of Students



100% Students on Free or Reduced Lunch



### Mission Statement:

All students are capable of achieving academic success.



[Website URL](#)

## CHALLENGES



Approximately half of Wayne High School students, are being raised by grandparents or “grandfamilies”. There is a generational gap when it comes to areas such as technology, social media, and new and evolving challenges teenagers are facing. Grandparents’ roles are changing from secondary to primary caregivers and can result in a challenging transition. Grandfamilies are frequently faced with physical limitations and resource restraints.



### Challenge #1

Identifying students who are being raised by grandparents to then provide targeted outreach, support and resources for families



### Challenge #2

Establishing time needed by the core team for initial engagement, education, and addressing individual circumstances



### Challenge #3

Initial launch of grandfamilies engagement; realizing each circumstance may require a different approach, and shifting expectations based on family situation and needs

## SOLUTIONS



Increase grandfamilies engagement through community events, dinner, special giveaway opportunities, and open houses. The core team conducted home visits, regular 1-on-1 sessions with students, clothing and food outreach, and personalized intervention strategies. Through these initiatives, team measures progress and success with weekly updates. The outreach initiatives involve community and additional resources to help create sustainable solutions.

### Top Priorities Related to Family Engagement



**Promote Grand Family Engagement**



**Educate Caregivers on Opportunities**



**Identify and Address Individual Challenges**



# ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



## Key Initiatives

Creation of a school/home engagement plan of action for identified students and families/caregivers. Expand family engagement best practices to extended family members, such as grand families through weekly touchpoints, information dissemination and individual meetings. Recognize and celebrate family involvement highlighting the crucial role families play in student success. By implementing these initiatives, the school is able to supports the academic and personal growth of every student.

## Key Stakeholders Engaged



- Students
- Grand families as acting caregivers
- Core team: Community school representative, mental health counselor, social worker, and principal

## Lessons Learned

Addressing concerns grandparents are facing while raising their grandchildren has helped identify challenges specific to engagement and family structure. "We knew there was a generational gap but we didn't fully understand the challenges they're facing," says Stapleton. "Driver's tests, email, math, doctors appointments--the problem is bigger than we thought." she explained. The program provided a slow but steady launch that allows for adjustments by the team as they move forward to provide a positive outcome.

# OUTCOMES



## Quantitative Impact

1

A food and clothing pantry started as a vision and became a reality. A Friday food delivery program serves 50 students and provides enough food for three people to eat for four days. Additional specialized identified needs, such as a cap and gown, were supported.

## Qualitative Impact

2

Elijah, who was headed down a path of incarceration, graduated as the "Most Improved" male in his class. He wrote letters to members of the core team thanking them for helping to "save him". He is now working a full-time job thanks to the help of the collaboration with his grandfamily and school.

3

## Unexpected Outcomes

A community grandparents group has formed from the initiative and meets regularly at a local church to discuss various challenges, such as technology, social media and additional social/emotional and behavioral topics.



# CONCLUSION

The WVFEC grant has created a sustainable impact at Wayne High School through individual engagement. Home visits on Fridays have continued, the food and clothing pantries, that were once a vision, are now a reality and other supports established are providing successful impact.

# Grandfamilies Outreach

Educators are working closely with students being raised by grandparents to identify family engagement gaps.



## Activity Goal

Engage grandfamilies to help foster successful student achievement

## Key Actions

- Identify target students
- Set up 1-on-1 visits to engage families
- Create a weekly cadence for outreach, meetings, and status updates
- Obtain support items for individual plans (i.e, cap and gown, dental appointment, food, clothes, etc.)



## Activity Outcomes

Basic needs of students are being met through a collaborative effort of support. This includes bridge building to grand families and identification of generational gaps.

