



March 15, 2023

Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley – A.L.L. Club Youth Collaborative (Youth Clubhouse Model)

Program Scope:

American youth are in the midst of an unprecedented mental health crisis, and Montgomery County, Ohio is no exception. According to a [Dayton Daily News](#) article in September 2022, over 900 youth were admitted to Dayton Children’s Hospital with depression or suicidal thoughts. Mental Health crises are now the number one reason for admission to the hospital. Suicidal ideation and suicide attempts are especially dangerous for African American children, with African American youth under the age of 13 twice as likely to die by suicide than their Caucasian peers.

As reported in an [April 2022 article of the Dayton Daily News](#), the pandemic has exacerbated the growing crisis. In 2021, 37% of high school students reported poor mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic and an additional 44% reported persistent sadness or hopelessness. Analysis from the CDC states during the pandemic, 55% of youth experienced emotional abuse by an adult in the home; 11% experienced physical abuse by an adult in the home; and 29% reported a parent lost a job. Belonging is essential to youth and young adults’ well being and during the pandemic, only 47% of youth reported feeling close to people at school.

[Montgomery County Ohio Community Health Assessment](#) compiled similar statistics. In Montgomery County, Ohio, only 44.4% of youth felt as if they belonged in their school and 11% missed more than 1 day of school due to feeling unsafe on their way to or from school. 29.2% of youth in Montgomery County sought mental health treatment in Montgomery County and 15.8% of youth seriously contemplated suicide in the past month.

Substance use is also a concern in Montgomery County. After being ravaged by the opioid epidemic in 2016-2017, Montgomery County created collaborative agencies and comprehensive programming to stem the tide of opioid abuse and overdose deaths. Though statistics improved, the pandemic contributed to the highest overdose rate since 2018. Substance use, however, is not limited to opioid or other prescription drugs. According to the same Montgomery County Ohio Community Health Assessment, 11.9% of youth ages 12-20 in Montgomery County reported binge use of alcohol in the past month; the national average is 10.6%. Six percent of youth admitted to marijuana use in the past month and 2.7% of the overdose deaths in Montgomery County occurred in young adults between the ages of 19 and 24.

In order to address the growing youth mental health crisis in Montgomery County, Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley proposes a version of its Miracle Clubhouse program tailored to young people's needs. Miracle Clubhouse, located on GESMV's Main Street Campus in Downtown Dayton, is a place for individuals with persistent and recurring mental illness to experience community and belonging. Miracle Clubhouse is accredited through the International Clubhouse model and celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2022. Miracle Clubhouse provides members a work-order-day, the opportunity to be an integral part of a community and perform duties around the Clubhouse such as registering members for the day, cooking meals, overseeing the snack cart, and working the garden, among other tasks. It served 382 individuals in 2022. Miracle Clubhouse is a resource for adults seeking community in conjunction with formal mental health treatment. One of the thirty-seven standards that define the Clubhouse model is that Miracle Clubhouse provides job training and opportunities for transitional employment, as well as supported and independent employment. Staff assist members in securing basic needs such as food, referrals to mental health providers, and stable housing. On many occasions, members and their families credit Miracle Clubhouse with saving their lives. Miracle Clubhouse is also a unique training resource for law enforcement and community mental health providers to gain nuanced understanding of those experiencing mental health crises.

The A.L.L. (Allyship, Leadership & Life Skills) Club Youth Collaborative is a place for transition age youth ranging from 14 to 22 years old, with persistent or recurrent mental illness, substance use challenges, legal history, or exposure to trauma to gather and encourage one another in the journey of mental wellness. Employment, life skills and socialization will be important cornerstones incorporated into the A.L.L. Club programming. Referrals for counseling, mental health supports, and certified peer recovery supports will be made as needed.

The A.L.L. Club will run during the late afternoon hours of 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for youth between the ages of 14 and 17, and during evening the hours of 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. for young adults between the ages of 18 and 22. Running Monday through Friday, A.L.L. Club will be housed in the new, state of the art West Campus Community Services Center located at 735 East Main Street, Trotwood, OH 45426.

The target population for this program will be transition age youth between the ages of 14 to 22 coping with mental health challenges, substance use, justice system involvement or exposure to trauma. Referrals will be accepted from current internal Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley services, Trotwood-Madison City Schools, the Montgomery County Juvenile Court Mental Health docket, Daybreak, Dayton Children's Hospital, and more. The A.L.L. Club will be a community for youth with shared experiences to belong and support each other through this organized, intentionally structured program. This age group and this model of service is an identified gap in the continuum of care for youth in the Montgomery County area, and Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley is uniquely poised to fill this gap as a result of its experience with mental health services, youth services, employment services, and vocational training.

A significant focus of the GESMV A.L.L. Club will be workforce development. GESMV believes that employment is a cornerstone of recovery. Employment and skills training

builds up a young adult's self-worth, sense of self-sufficiency, and autonomy. GESMV proposes a Consumer Operated Service (COS) model within A.L.L. Club. This model allows club members to learn vital skills and vocational training while operating a business line, under the supervision of A.L.L. Club staff. Furthermore, given the current economic landscape of Trotwood, it would also be beneficial to the city to establish another local business, furthering economic development in the area.

GESMV intends to purchase a food truck which will sell coffee and pastries initially. The food truck would be based at its West Campus Community Services Center at 735 E Main Street. With the Trotwood Library and Municipal Court within walking distance of this location, GESMV believes this will be a high-traffic area ideal for a coffee and pastry business. A.L.L. Club members will receive training in ServSafe and Customer Service before learning the operation of the food truck. A.L.L. Club members will be supervised by a GESMV staff at all times while operating the business. Daily operation of this COS provides youth with a valuable opportunity to learn money management, budgeting, customer service, and other transferrable skills.

GESMV will partner closely with Trotwood-Madison High School to offer COS training as well. After its initial establishment at the West Campus Community Services Center, GESMV will operate the truck on the campus of Trotwood-Madison High School. Working in conjunction with Trotwood-Madison High School staff and leadership, this would provide a valuable hands-on training opportunity for students. Focusing on those students who are interested in a vocational trade or entrepreneurship, this will be a great opportunity for an engaging learning experience.

In addition to the COS model, GESMV proposes training in other vocational skillsets of interest to youth and young adults through A.L.L. Club. GESMV plans to teach podcasting skills, crafting skills, and t-shirt printing skills. All of these vocational trainings will instill customer service, money management, and build self-esteem among members. In addition to the hard skills associated with those trainings, GESMV will offer certifications in Social Media Marketing, Google IT Support Professional, and Customer Service. This will help prepare A.L.L. Club members for employment or the pursuit of an independent entrepreneurial career.

GESMV will partner closely with Trotwood-Madison High School and Middle School on all of these efforts. Offering training not only at A.L.L. Club but possibly on campus of Trotwood-Madison City Schools. This model removes barriers to access to these trainings for Trotwood-Madison City District School students.

Programming offered through the Youth Clubhouse will include small group and individual sessions focused on healthy decision making, independent living skills, stress management, career counseling and socialization skills. Certified Peer Recovery Supporters and Youth Peer Recovery Supporters trained in Mental Health First Aid will engage A.L.L. Club members in daily activities. They'll also engage with youth individually and in group settings. Music therapy such as therapeutic drumming led by a certified instructor and art therapy will also be available to youth.

When appropriate, GESMV will refer A.L.L. members to mental health services, certified peer recovery supports, and other services as needed. GESMV has an extensive network of partners and it will utilize that network to ensure youth have access to the

services needed. **If funded, GESMV will provide transportation resources to youth from Trotwood-Madison High School, attending the A.L.L. Club, as transportation is a significant barrier in Trotwood/Montgomery County.**

In order to help promote prosocial behaviors and inclusion in the community, the Youth Clubhouse will choose an annual volunteer project to complete. Youth Clubhouse Members will be encouraged to participate and volunteer in conjunction with this project as volunteering and community engagement is a positive factor for mental wellness. The Youth Clubhouse model will focus on the training and development of Youth Certified Peer Recovery Specialists to help serve as leadership in the Youth Clubhouse. This will mirror the adult Clubhouse model which champions leadership by Clubhouse members. GESMV will seek to engage these Youth Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists in other GESMV programs which serve transition age youth as well. For participants between the ages of 18 and 22, special focus will be placed on transitioning into adulthood and preparing for the practical skills (budgeting, employment, understanding benefits, housing, etc.), as well as the social-emotional skills (creating a social network, utilizing resources, ensuring continuous mental health services, etc.) necessary to thrive in adulthood. Resources for ongoing mental health supports, community connections, and employment supports will be provided. Young adults completing A.L.L. Club will be referred to Miracle Clubhouse to facilitate a continuum of care and support.

GESMV requests funds to purchase a food truck, transport vehicles (to transport students to and from Trotwood-Madison High School), supplies for a Consumer Operated Service, Cricket crafting machines, t-shirt presses, and other equipment purchases for the A.L.L. Club Youth Collaborative.

March 15, 2023

Trotwood-Madison City School District

3594 N. Snyder Road

Trotwood, Ohio 45426

Dr. Reva Cosby

Superintendent, Trotwood Madison School District

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the Community Project Funding application submitted by Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley. As an active partner with this agency, we are excited for the impact these funds will have on the students of Trotwood-Madison City Schools and their respective families. Furthermore, we believe the potential economic impact of a small business venture operated by young adults in the Trotwood community will be powerful and continue the growth already underway in the community.

The A.L.L. Club will provide a valuable resource for students who are pursuing mental wellness, pursuing recovery from substance use, or overcoming the effects of trauma. Students will be offered a place to belong and experience community with other youth who share commonalities with their journey. Furthermore, youth will have an opportunity to engage with behavioral health resources, pro-social activities, community service, leadership development, and vocational training. These supports will foster feelings of belonging, engagement at home and school, and self-worth.

The vocational opportunities which would be available to Trotwood-Madison School students through these funds would be of significant impact. Training in entrepreneurial skills, industry-recognized certifications, and components of small business management will foster feelings of autonomy and self-sufficiency. For students who may choose to pursue a vocational path after high school, these trainings will better prepare them to positively contribute economically to self, family, and community.

Thank you for your acceptance of this letter of support and your consideration of Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley proposal.

Sincerely,



A.L.L. Club Youth Collaborative

A.L.L. Club Youth Collaborative is a community for transition-age youth, ages 14 - 17, and young adults, ages 18 - 22, impacted by mental health concerns, substance use or trauma. The purpose of A.L.L. Club is to provide an inclusive environment that allows youth to feel accepted, supported and uplifted.

A Partner On Your Journey to Mental Wellness

Important aspects of A.L.L. Club are:

1. Establishing a safe haven for community & connection.
2. Building support & trust.
3. Developing healthy habits to support mental wellness.

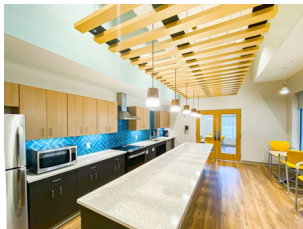
Other important features include life skills, prevention & recovery, job readiness, and community resources.

Membership

Membership is voluntary. A.L.L. Club is open to youth/young adults living with mental health challenges. Members are referred from a partnering organization. Referrals will be accepted from Trotwood City Schools, Dayton Public Schools, Dayton Children's Hospital, Montgomery County Juvenile Court, Daybreak and other community agencies.

Our Facilities

The A.L.L. Club Youth Collaborative is located at Goodwill Easterseals Miami Valley West Campus Community Services Center in Trotwood. This state of the art, fully accessible facility features a computer lab and comfortable spaces for collaboration.



A.L.L. STARS meet Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A.L.L. Club Leaders meet Monday through Friday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A.L.L. Club Youth Collaborative

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