SFC Benefits From Day of Giving

On Feb. 14 and 15, Buckeyes gave back in support of a favorite cause, college or program. For the College of Education and Human Ecology, it meant supporting the Schoenbaum Family Center.

It was Ohio State’s first-ever Day of Giving — an inspiring 36-hour event for alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends to come together and support university. The Day of Giving raised over $13,000 for the SFC that may be used to support gifts like these:

- **$1,000** One month of special education services on site
- **$500** Crib and mattress for an infant or toddler’s rest time
- **$100** Emergency assistance for families in need, for example to help families avoid eviction, pay utilities and get counseling
- **$75** Costumes for children for dramatic play in the classroom, invaluable to their creative development
- **$50** Sensory balls for the playground to improve children’s dexterity
- **$20** Classroom puzzles to help children develop motor skills
- **$10** Literacy bags for families to spark reading and discussion at home

If you, family members or friends would like to support our children and the services we provide for families, visit [http://go.osu.edu/GIVINGehe](http://go.osu.edu/GIVINGehe).

THANKS!
Take Home Literacy Bags

Take home literacy bags are now available in the library! The literacy bags are a wonderful chance for families to work together on learning activities in the home in an engaging and educational way.

Each literacy bag has a theme including, rhyming, the alphabet, camouflage, and feelings. Each bag contains a variety of books and activities for everyone in the family to enjoy. These bags are a great tool to use to foster you child’s language and literacy development while also encouraging a love of reading.

Here are some tips for making this experience fun for everyone:

- Remind your child that the items from the library and will be returned for another friend to use.

- Keep the materials together when you are using them.

- Choose a special space to store your literacy bag so that it is easy to find each time.

- Try to set aside time together to work on these activities, make this a special time for you and your child.

Each literacy bag contains three books, a writing/drawing journal, a bag of supplies to use with the activities, Wonderful Words vocabulary cards, and a variety of activities to complete with your child.

Each bag also has some helpful tips on things that you can do with your child as you read each book. There is a parent survey in each bag; these surveys will help us to continue improving the bags and choosing topics that are relevant to the families in the school.

The literacy bags can be check out the same way as any of the library books. Simply choose the bag that you are interested in using, bring it up to the checkout computer, and scan the barcode found on the bag’s tag.

Literacy bags can be checked out for up to two weeks and a reminder will be placed in your child’s mailbox if they are not returned.

March 21: Parent Volunteers Wanted

Our next P&G Giveaway is Tuesday, March 21 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the SFC Town Square. Each month we donate household and baby items to all our families.

We are looking for parents and caregivers to help unload, sort and bag items for the giveaway. Stay for the giveaway and help handout items as well!

If you can help anytime during the day, please contact Jeff Bowman at Bowman.12@osu.edu or call 614-247-7488.
Pro-social Lessons
Emma Hooper, Marriage and Family Therapist

Our most recent pro-social lessons have covered identifying how our bodies feel when we are feeling a strong emotion and what to do when that happens. We have talked about feeling worried and frustrated, and how that can make our body feel uncomfortable. We have also discussed things that children can do when they are feeling a strong emotion.

These include:
- Telling a grown-up when we are feeling worried
- Putting our hands on our tummies and saying “Stop” out loud if we are feeling frustrated

Things that you can do with your child to reinforce and practice these lessons at home include:
- Encouraging your child to identify when he/she is feeling worried. This can include a discussion of how feeling worried makes their body feel. It can also include a discussion of who to talk to about feeling worried.
- Encouraging your child to identify when he/she is feeling frustrated, and helping your child to understand how this feeling affects their body. Helping your child to put their hands on their tummy and say “Stop” when they feel frustrated.

You will continue to receive flyers in your child’s mailbox that outline some of the skills they are learning in class. These include activity ideas that you can do with your child to reinforce what they are learning in school.

Chef Mark’s Kitchen
Nutrition Director, Mark Newton, prepares the healthy meals our children eat each day. Here is a healthy and easy recipe your whole family can enjoy and share together.

Healthy Jello
Ingredients:
- 4 Cups Apple Juice
- 1 Cup Frozen Raspberries
- 1 tbsp. Gelatin

Directions:
1. In a medium saucepan pour in 2 cups of apple juice and 1 cup raspberries.
2. Bring the apple juice and raspberries to a boil.
3. Remove from heat and pour in gelatin, stir to dissolve.
4. Stir in the remaining apple juice.
5. Pour the liquid through a strainer to remove raspberries seeds.
6. Pour liquid into molds or a bowl.
Education Means a Better Life

The following article by Robin Chenoweth is featured on the College of Education and Human Ecology Website.

When she turned four, Anilah (pictured left) had none of the skills researchers say are critical for kindergarten preparedness. She didn’t recognize the alphabet or know how to sound out letters. She didn’t know her numbers. Her mother, Shalisa Carter, was working on and off at various jobs. Filling out the necessary forms for childcare assistance was daunting, so Anilah hadn’t attended preschool.

Then Carter went to SPARK. “That SPARK program showed me a lot,” Carter says. She was able to enroll Anilah at the School for Early Learning. Then she watched in wonder as her child blossomed. Carter was so convinced that kids could benefit from reading that she took a job with another literacy program, Community Properties of Ohio Building Blocks. Now she goes home to home around the city just to read to other people’s young children. Meanwhile, Anilah has exceeded her mother’s expectations.

“In one year, she learned quite a lot,” Carter says, “all her letters, numbers, colors, shapes. Her vocabulary expanded.”

Children learn more and faster during the first five years of their lives than at any other time, says principal Anneliese Johnson. “Our school capitalizes upon this by offering engaging learning experiences and projects. Teachers are skilled in their knowledge of Ohio’s Early Learning and Development Standards and create and adjust lessons and projects that are interesting and investing to the children in their classroom,” she says.

Lessons are individualized to the learning level of each child. “They are given a project of some sort that they have to conquer,” Carter says. A unit on musical instruments, for example, allows each child to explore the sounds they like, draw pictures of the instruments, read about them and try to sound out and write their names.

Children learn to rely on their peers as resources in our classrooms. “That further fosters language and literacy development, as well as the social foundations necessary for later school success,” Johnson says.

The result? Anilah, who this year attends Weinland Park Elementary, was more than ready for kindergarten. “She’s doing great,” Carter says. Anilah’s younger brother, Roderick, 3, now attends school at SFC. “I have referred so many people to Schoenbaum just because of the academics and how much my daughter learned,” Carter says.

A. Sophie Rogers
School for Early Learning

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