2024-2025 LIFETOWN YEAR IN REVIEW

NEVER OF COMMUNITY

COMING TOGETHER TO LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND













LifeTownColumbus LifeTown is where no one fights their battles alone. LifeTown is a world class simulated village where children with special needs gain and practice life, social and pre-employment skills. LifeTown is the destination for 5,506 students with disabilities in Ohio, where they are empowered with the tools they need on their journey towards independence.

















LifeTownColumbus Stop to Live, taught in the LifeTown medical center, is a lifesaving program which equips all children with critical prevention skills needed to resist the outside pressures of addiction and drug abuse. Too many lives have been lost to overdose and Stop to Live actively fights prevention at an early age.















LifeTownColumbus The 2024 LifeTown Legends Luncheon was celebrated with 1,200 community members who came together to ensure that no child is ever alone, recognizing 2024 LifeTown Legends Bruce Daniels and the Frecka family for their commitment and compassion for all children.





LifeTownColumbus The first ever ADAMH and LifeTown Student of the Year Award was presented to Dorothy Meadows by Joe Montana!







LifeTownColumbus The first annual LifeTown Day of Service was marked with Lt. Governor Jim Tressel joined by state representatives. It takes a village, and our elected officials joined together to show each and every one of our students that they matter, and that they are celebrated and irreplaceable!



















LifeTownColumbus LifeTown is the only facility in Ohio that empowers children with special needs to master financial literacy on their journey towards independence!







LifeTownColumbus All children deserve to feel pampered and celebrated. At *Betty's Beauty Shop*, students learn how to prepare for a job interview and how to make and keep manicure or hairstyle appointments. This is where confidence is unlocked for a bright future ahead.



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LifeTownColumbus Going to the dentist or doctor can be a traumatic experience for anyone. The *Fit for Life Medical Center* prepares students for the real life experience in a warm and loving environment. Students learn how to set up an appointment and make sure they arrive at their allotted time. Students practice sitting in a dental chair and getting their blood pressure taken, which will acclimate them to visiting medical professionals.



















LifeTownColumbus At **Uncle Glenn's Animal Friends**, students use their senses to explore and learn how to care for an animal.

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LifeTownColumbus At the *LifeTown Deli*, students learn how to order, practice counting and practice self advocacy by choosing the food of their choice!

Would you like some fries on the side with that?





LifeTownColumbus At LifeTown, our goal is to provide the highest quality resources and amenities to our students. Just this year, LifeTown has added horse therapy to our curriculum, bringing smiles and excitement to students of all ages!





LifeTownColumbus Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who make LifeTown possible every single day of the school year! We deeply appreciate the kindness and support of our corporate and individual volunteers who take the time out of their busy schedules to partner with LifeTown to level the playing field for the most vulnerable youth in our community!













@Kitchen_of_Life_Columbus ...



Kitchen_of_Life_Columbus No teenager should ever struggle alone with thoughts of taking their own life. Through the medium of cooking, Kitchen of Life empowers teenagers with the resiliency skills needed to navigate mental health challenges and the ups and downs of life.













@Kitchen_of_Life_Columbus ...



Kitchen_of_Life Critical life skills that transcend the culinary experience- Ohio teenagers bring belonging, confidence and resilience nurtured at Kitchen of Life into day to day life.

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@Kitchen_of_Life_Columbus ...



Kitchen_of_Life Congratulations to our inspiring students at Capital Collegiate Preparatory Academy for being the first school to graduate Kitchen of Life!

We are so proud of all you have accomplished and can't wait to see the incredible future you will create!



@ColumbusFriendshipCircle ...



ColumbusFriendshipCircle Friendship Circle ensures that children struggling with isolation and loneliness have a warm community where they are embraced. College and high school volunteers are paired as a buddy for children and young adults with special needs, fostering friendship, belonging and unconditional acceptance.













@ColumbusFriendshipCircle ...



ColumbusFriendshipCircle Friendship Circle movie theater takeover! For a lot of children, this was the first time ever being able to go to a movie theater. Friendship Circle rents out movie theaters regularly so that children with special needs can be accommodated with sensory friendly sensitivities and a warm and loving volunteer by their side!













@ColumbusFriendshipCircle .



ColumbusFriendshipCircle At Friendship Circle, no one celebrates their birthday alone! There is no greater feeling than celebrating your birthday with a loving friend by your side!



LifeTown by the Numbers



- 5,506 Individual student visits
 - 102 Schools
 - 16 Schools districts
 - **13** Counties
- 1,022 Volunteers
- 2,555 Volunteer hours



- 2,650 Stop to Live lessons were taught
- 2,650 Spark items were given to students as a way of bringing the Stop To Live lessons home
 - 86 Schools participated in the Stop To Live lessons



- 618 Unique students
 - 25 Schools
 - 4 Schools districts
 - 2 Counties
- 990 Volunteers
- 1,980 Volunteer hours



- 1,086 Family members positively impacted Friendship Circle's programming
- 361 Buddies matched
- 1,530 Volunteer hours

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ADAMH Board of Franklin County, The Columbus Foundation, and the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, whose generous support ensures that LifeTown !can continue to keep its doors open for thousands of students











Stop to Live | Kitchen of Life | Friendship Circle

6220 E. Dublin-Granville Road New Albany, OH 43054 | (614) 939-0765 LifeTownColumbus.org | stoptolive.org | kolc.org | friendscolumbus.com

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