

2022-2023

EDGE Teen Center Annual Report



EDGE Teen Center's mission is to empower teens to impact the world. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, that meant 1,051 teen's empowered to better themselves and their community.

Letter from the Executive Director

“It takes courage to become who you really are.” -E.E. Cummings

If late adolescence could be summed up in a single quote, this one might be it. The young people we have the privilege of serving are on the cusp of adulthood. They are making big decisions about their present and their future. They are in a natural season of rebellion, challenging authority and gaining independence. What our staff, volunteers and community partners get to do is come alongside those big decisions, those hard conversations and insert some wisdom, encourage safety in all its forms and ask thought provoking questions to encourage teens to consider all possible outcomes. It is not easy work, but it is a privilege to get to do.

The past year is marked with growth, adjustment and excitement. In August of 2022, EDGE@West presented by MidPointe opened up as a 5-day a week teen program. With dedicated, site specific staff and program partners, this location served almost exactly the same quantity of students this year as the original location, EDGE@East. In addition to the growth we experienced upon opening EDGE@West, we were also thrilled to see the Community Service Program return to pre-pandemic levels with 255 teens serving over 1,505 hours at local non-profits.

As an adjustment to our program in order to adequately meet the mental health needs of our teens, EDGE pivoted to provide an additional day of counseling to teens in the teen centers this year. Through the generosity of community members and foundations and our partners, Focus On Youth, we were able to offer additional support to teens who struggle through the hard stuff that life sometimes brings.

And with excitement, we ended our fiscal year with news that we would be able to launch a new program that utilizes volunteerism as a vehicle for early career exploration; which will connect two focus areas in a meaningful way to prepare young people to consider their future with a new lens.

None of this could have happened without the community, local foundations, corporations and many others stepping up to support the teens that we care so deeply about each day. Thank you for your support and trusting us with your resources.



Sara Gabbard, Executive Director

What We Do

EDGE Teen Center's mission is to empower teens to impact the world. For EDGE this means helping young people reach their full potential. We do this through several program offerings found below.

After School Programs

EDGE Teen Center has served teens for the last 13 years through an afterschool program located within walking distance to Lakota East High School and Lakota East Freshman Building now known as EDGE@East. In the 2022-2023 school year, EDGE, in partnership with MidPointe Library, began serving teens inside the West Chester MidPointe Library each day after school. This location is known as

EDGE@West presented by MidPointe. EDGE@West is walkable from Lakota West High School. Students check into the teen centers and are able to just hang out, get a snack, play video games and hang out with friends. Additionally, 4-5 days a week, EDGE staff and program partners offer opportunities for teens to participate in life enhancing programs focused on Healthy Living, Community Service, Academic Success and Life Skills.



These programs include access to a mental health professional, prevention education, workforce readiness, volunteer opportunities and post secondary planning. All of these programs are offered free of charge to all participants throughout the entire school year. EDGE@East and EDGE@West served 395 unique teens through the afterschool program in the 2022-2023 school year.

Community Service Program

EDGE Teen Center facilitates community service experiences for young people 5 days each week. Any local teen can sign up to participate. Twice a week from September through May,



teens have an opportunity to serve out in the community at a local non-profit organization. For these outgoing service opportunities, EDGE provides transportation to and from the site, documentation of the teens service and supervision while they serve. Service sites during the 2022-2023 school year included Hope's Closet, Hamilton Urban Gardens, PAWS Adoption Center, Clutter2Care, Reach Out Lakota, Hope House Mission and several others.

In addition to these off site serving opportunities, teens can also work on projects for non-profits all within the two teen centers. These projects include making blankets for children in foster care, cards for seniors in assisted living or making dog toys for local animal shelters. In the 2022-2023 school year, 255 teens served 1,505 hours.

In School Programs

EDGE Teen Center collaborates with Lakota Local Schools to provide several programs throughout the year to complement school curriculum and prepare students for bright futures. These include a program on landing your first job that is offered to Lakota West Freshman, career exploration and preparation for Lakota West Seniors and a monthly visit to the English Language Learners Programs at both Lakota East High School and Lakota West High School.



Summer Program



EDGE Teen Center provides a summer program for teens each year. This shortened experience includes visits to museums, local businesses, college visits, community service and leadership development.

Highlights through Images

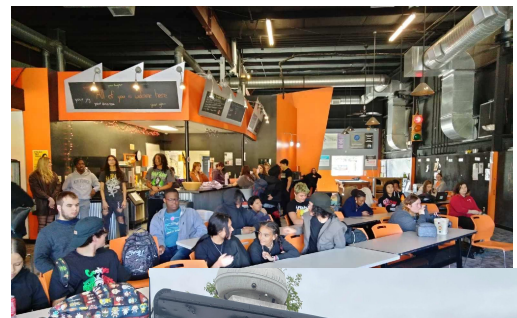


New Community Service Site

EDGE Teens began visiting Clutter2Care this school year. Work involved sorting donations and learning more about the mission of the organization. This site quickly became a favorite for teens looking for volunteer opportunities.

Fridays, Food Trucks and Futures

This program happens on 3 Fridays in the fall and 3 Fridays in the Spring. Teens hear from local business leaders to be better prepared for their future careers and to function as adults after graduation. This program is something the teens look forward to because after each program there is a free meal off a food truck. Kemba Credit Union has been a critical partner in this effort.



EDGE@West presented by MidPointe Library

Following a soft launch of 1-2 days a week in the 2021-2022, EDGE@West had a fantastic first full year serving 195 unique teens and with average daily attendance between 50-60 students.



The Best Volunteers

There is no way we could serve the number of teens we serve without the fantastic volunteers that serve at our check in desks, mentor our teens, fix our facility, lead programs and play board games. They are priceless.

Our Program Partners

There are so many community partners that serve our teens inside the teen centers. These programs prepare our teens for success in high school and beyond. Thank you to YMCA, Envision Partners, Focus on Youth, Kale and Cake, Class 101, MidPointe Library Systems, Kemba Credit Union, Magnified Giving, Miami Regionals, Cincinnati State, Butler Tech and many more.



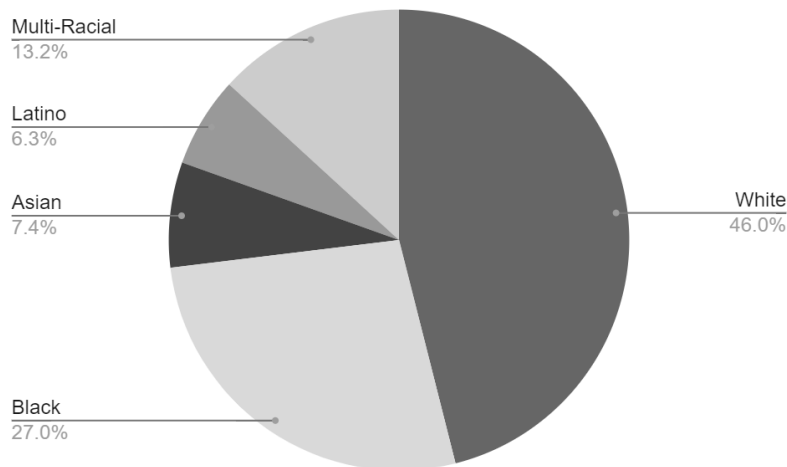
Our Teens

Everything we do is for the betterment of the young people we serve. Mentoring, watching them grow, seeing them figure things out and mature is the best part of every year.

Who We Serve

EDGE has exclusively served high school age young people since it opened in 2009. While the program has looked a little different each year to meet the needs of the students it serves, teens are our favorite.

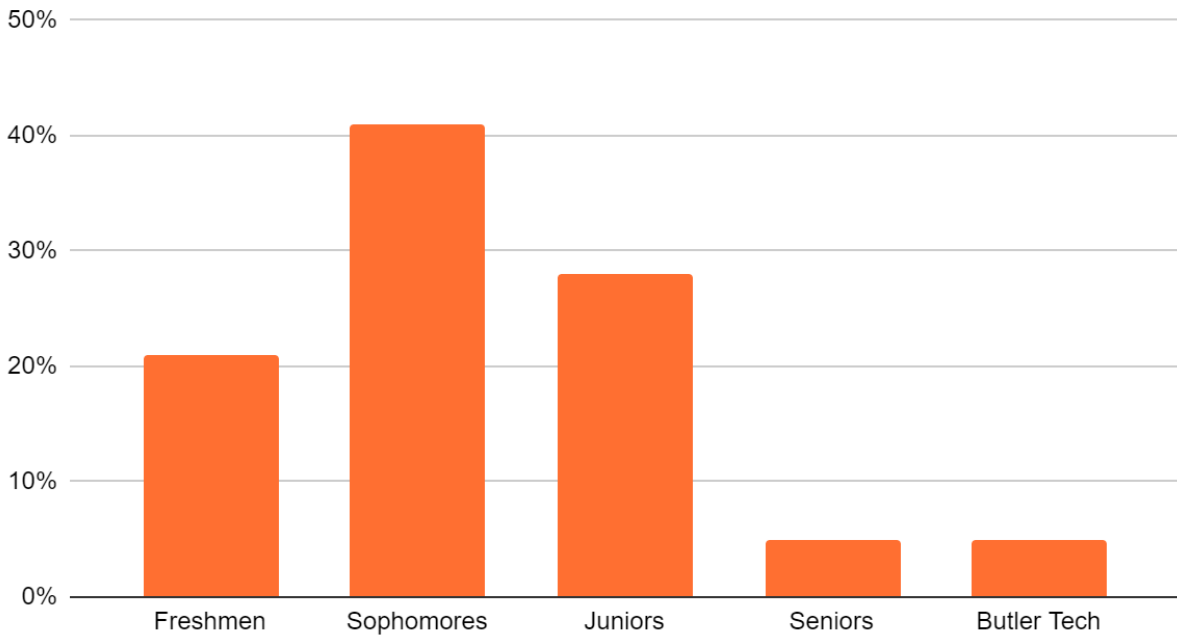
There are no barriers to access services through the EDGE Teen Center. You do not need a referral. There are no mandatory fees, household income requirements, and proof of insurance. Participants need to be in 9th-12th grade, have a parent or guardian complete the registration paperwork and then show up to our program. Below is a snapshot of the teens served through the after school program during the 2022-2023 school year.



We are diverse.

**54% of EDGE
students are
minorities**

2022-2023 Class Breakdown



23% of registered After School Program participants live at or below the poverty line. For comparison, 11.6% of individuals in Butler County are experiencing poverty (according to 2021 census data).

Impact through Statistics

EDGE measures success through both the breadth and depth of our impact on teens.

2022-2023 Statistical Results:

- 1,051 teens served across all programs. 395 through the after school centers, 255 through the community service program and the remainder through collaborations inside the school buildings.
- EDGE@West served 190 unique teens while EDGE@East served 195 unique teens.
- 255 teens volunteered a total of 1,505 hours making a difference in their community through service to local nonprofit organizations.
- EDGE facilitated 200 hours of access to a mental health counselor in collaboration with Focus on Youth.

The following results were reported on the end of the year student survey:

- 99% of teens reported enjoying their time at EDGE.
- 97% anticipated advancing to the next grade level at the end of the school year.
- 57% take advantage of homework help at EDGE.
- 93% report being more aware of their options after graduation because of their time at EDGE.
- 91% report that their time at EDGE helps them feel better equipped to handle problems and deal with the daily stressors of life.
- 82% learned more about managing their money at EDGE
- 90% indicated that an EDGE staff member, program partner or volunteer had encouraged them to take better care of their physical or mental health.

Impact through Stories

Zach, Site Manager at EDGE@West shared this story.

“A junior who visits us regularly comes from a tough home environment. After several months at EDGE and developing relationships with adult staff and volunteers and other students, she says that she leaves encouraged and loves EDGE because they feel like family for her. She has said that the mentoring relationships at EDGE motivates her at school and she looks forward to seeing us every day after school.”

Lauren, Site Manager at EDGE@East shared the following story.

“In the 2021-2022 school year, EDGE Teen Center served a teen who often came in very upset and stand off ish. After continuous efforts to break through, the EDGE team was able to truly get to know this teenager. Because of all the effort the staff made in prior years, last year (2022-2023), this teen felt safe enough to tell the EDGE team when they were feeling unsafe. The EDGE team was able to set this teenager up with our mental health resource, Focus On Youth. The teen is still attending sessions at Focus On Youth today and is thriving as an EDGE teen. They love coming in to talk to everyone; unlike how they were in the past years. It is so beautiful to watch the growth of this young person.”

Impact through the Community Service Program

“This fall, a teen on probation volunteered at Hope House in Middletown with EDGE. When students serve at Hope House they prepare a meal for the men living at the shelter under the supervision of a regular adult volunteer and an EDGE staff member. During this visit, the adult volunteer shared that he had just been released from prison after serving a 10 year sentence for a third strike offense. He spoke to this young man about the difference one decision can make in your life and encouraged him to stay on the right path. It was beautiful to see this interaction and to think about the way this may change this young man’s life for the better.”

Impact through Partnership with ELL

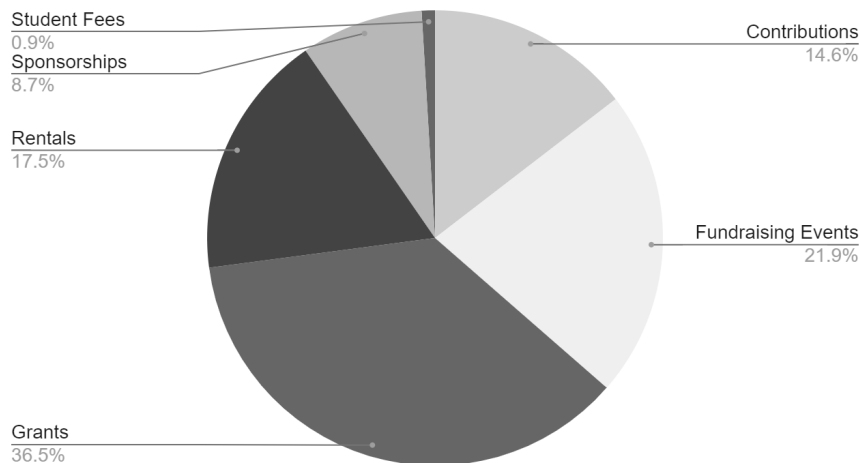
“After consistently visiting the ELL class, EDGE staff were able to become more familiar to the teens. Due to this, some of the ELL students signed up for the community service program. EDGE was able to help the ELL students complete needed community service hours for graduation by creating relationships and building trust.”

Fiscal Responsibility

EDGE Teen Center values every contribution, sponsorship and grant that allows the program to serve local teens. Out of respect to our donors and our mission, we prioritize stretching each dollar as far as possible for the good of the young people we serve. Below is a chart that shows our organization's efforts to keep the cost per student as steady as possible despite the increase in costs over the last several years.

	2021-2022 School Year	2022-2023 School Year	2023-2024 School Year
Number of Teens Served	873	1,051	Estimate 1,250
Cost per Teen Served	\$310	\$330	Estimate \$323

Diverse funding streams is an indicator of the financial health of a nonprofit organization. EDGE Teen Center is privileged to receive support from many income streams. These categories of support allow EDGE to provide quality programming to meet the complex needs of teens.



2022-2023
Funding
Streams

Community Support

We would be unable to serve teens without the support of the following foundations, corporations, organizations and individuals.

Thank you to Supporting Foundations:

Butler County United Way	Jack J. Smith Foundation
Carol Ann Schneider Foundation	Jergens Foundation
Charles Dater Foundation	John A. Schroth Foundation
Daniel and Susan Phau Foundation	Taco Bell Foundation
Elsa Sule Foundation	Wellspring Community Foundation

Thank you to Supporting Businesses:

Barclayscard	Miami Regionals
Center for Foot Care - Dr. Titko	MidPointe Library
Cincinnati Children's	Risksource Clark Theders Insurance
Kemba Credit Union	Walmart-West Chester
Liberty Mutual	Omni Printing

Thank you to Supporting Organizations and Churches:

Butler County Educational Service Center	
Family and Children First Council	
FOP Lodge 186	River Church
Lakota Optimist Club	Rotary Club of West Chester and Liberty Twp
Linkinnati	
Saint Anne Episcopal Church	Union Centre Boulevard Merchants Association
Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish	

Thank you to the countless individuals that support our organization monthly and the generosity of our event sponsors!

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