



# Annual Report

FY 2025

# A message from our President/CEO & Board Chair

During fiscal year 2025, PreventionFIRST! remained focused on advancing our mission, building new relationships, and strengthening the strong, meaningful partnerships that have long supported our work.

We brought people together through conferences, trainings, small group discussions, and one-on-one coaching — creating opportunities to share successes, navigate challenges, and champion prevention efforts taking place in schools, faith communities, higher education, and neighborhoods statewide.

We worked alongside individuals, organizations, and coalitions who care deeply about the health and well-being of their neighbors, churches, schools, and youth.

These partnerships added depth and meaning to our work, strengthening our impact while inspiring continued commitment and enthusiasm for advancing substance use prevention and mental well-being.



**Marc Dizard**  
Board Chair



**Nicole Schieler**  
President/CEO

## Our Mission

**We implement best  
practice strategies to  
reduce the risk of  
behavioral health  
disorders.**



Fiscal Year 2025

# Board of Directors

## Chair

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Market Street Trust Company

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Deloitte Tax, LLP

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Tiffani Tribble  
Coldwell Banker

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Ernst & Young, LLP

## President/CEO

Nicole Schielser, M.Ed., MCHES, OCPC, ICPS

PreventionFIRST!

## Memberships & Associations

- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
- Hamilton County Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Norwood City Chamber of Commerce
- Ohio Prevention Professionals Association (OPPA)
- OPPA Young Prevention Professionals Partnership (YP3)
- Ohio Statewide Prevention Coalition Association (SPCA)
- Problem Gambling Network of Ohio
- Working Partners (Drug-free Workplace)



# Our Work

## Supporting & Expanding

### **Prevention in Communities**

PreventionFIRST! builds and strengthens the capacity of local coalitions and community groups. We provide funding, technical assistance, and strategic support focused on sustainability, evaluation, and evidence-based prevention. We help communities expand their reach, respond to emerging behavioral health needs, and advance local solutions that promote mental wellness, prevent substance misuse, and reduce suicide risk.

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## Cultivating & Championing

### **Youth Empowerment**

PreventionFIRST! provides leadership programs, prevention education, peer-to-peer initiatives, and community engagement opportunities for local youth. We help young people build the skills and confidence to promote mental wellness, reduce stigma, make healthy decisions, and work toward positive change in schools, families, and communities.

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## Evaluating & Measuring

### **Prevention Impact**

PreventionFIRST! uses data from the PF! Student Survey, program evaluations, community assessments, focus groups, and research to identify emerging substance use trends, understand local needs, set priorities, and guide decision-making. We work alongside partners to design, support, and strengthen evidence-based, sustainable prevention strategies — ensuring resources are invested where they can make the most meaningful difference.

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## Training & Mentoring

### **Prevention Professionals**

PreventionFIRST! works to ensure more people understand how prevention works — and why it matters. We create opportunities and support efforts to train professionals, educators, coalitions, and individuals across community sectors on how effective, evidence-based prevention can reduce the incidence and impact of substance use and behavioral health disorders. We are committed to expanding and supporting the number of local, regional, and statewide certified prevention professionals

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## Leadership & Expertise

### **Amplifying Prevention**

PreventionFIRST! is a recognized leader in prevention and coalition development. We help bring together diverse groups for collaboration and planning. We advocate for effective policies and work to improve how systems support substance use prevention and mental wellness. We champion and amplify the efforts of community coalitions and partners.

# Prevention in Communities

During FY 2025, our community engagement efforts focused on local coalitions, faith communities, and outreach initiatives serving Black and Hispanic/Latino communities. Focusing on capacity building, we supported efforts to reduce substance misuse, address the stigma of mental health disorders, and increase awareness of resources. Capacity building also created opportunities for shared learning — providing insight into successful approaches, innovative engagement, and emerging trends that inform and strengthen our prevention efforts statewide.

## Supporting & Expanding

### PreventionFIRST! Member Coalitions

PF! links coalitions to resources, and provides expert guidance on policy, evaluation, and sustainability. Ohio-based coalitions are members of the Ohio Statewide Prevention Coalition Association (SPCA).

- Activating Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) - Norwood
- Boone County Alliance for Healthy Youth
- Butler County Coalition for Healthy, Safe & Drug-Free Communities
- Butler County Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Campbell County Drug-Free Alliance
- Champions for a Drug-Free Gallatin County
- Champions for a Drug-Free Grant County
- Champions for a Drug-Free Pendleton County
- Cincinnati for H.O.P.E. Coalition
- Clark County Partners in Prevention
- Coalition for a Drug-Free Adams County
- Coalition for a Drug-Free Batesville
- Coalition for a Drug-Free Clermont County
- Coalition for a Healthy Community - Oxford Area
- Coalition for a Healthy Middletown
- Dearborn County Citizens Against Substance Abuse (CASA)
- E3C Drug Free Coalition
- Fairfield Prevention Coalition
- Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church - Prevention Service Ministry
- Healthy Hamilton Coalition
- Montgomery County Prevention Coalition
- Mt. Washington Cares! Coalition
- Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP)
- Owen County Drug Prevention Coalition - Hope's Hands
- Stayin' Alive, Franklin County LCC
- Step Up Anderson Township - A Coalition for a Healthy, Safe, Drug-Free Community
- Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Warren County

# PF! Mini Grants

With funding from the Hamilton County Family Services and Treatment Levy, PreventionFIRST! strengthens prevention efforts across Hamilton County, Ohio by investing in local coalition and community capacity-building initiatives. Established coalitions and emerging community groups are eligible to apply for funding to advance prevention strategies in their communities.

Grantees partner with PreventionFIRST! to build community partnerships and implement evidence-based prevention addressing substance use, mental health, and suicide prevention.

## Addressing Youth Alcohol Use Community Impact

PreventionFIRST! provided community funding to strengthen local alcohol prevention efforts. Benefiting organizations included ASAP Norwood, Santa Maria Community Services, Step Up Anderson, and Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

Funding supported podcast production, educational campaigns, trainings, and community events focused on raising awareness of youth alcohol use, promoting parental disapproval of underage drinking, reducing youth access to alcohol, and encouraging conversations about substance use.

### Hamilton County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Hamilton County, Ohio

- Trainings were provided for Question, Persuade, Respond (QPR), Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (A.S.I.S.T), and WISE trainings for older adults. Support groups for suicide loss survivors were convened, and resources were distributed to local organizations providing crisis services.

### Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Pain Steering Opioid Stewardship Committee

- A Detera drug disposal pouch was included with every opioid prescription filled at a Cincinnati Children's Hospital outpatient pharmacy or post-anesthesia care unit (PACU). Magnets promoting safe medication disposal were available in English, Spanish, and Arabic.

### A1 Stigma Free Coalition

- The coalition hosted a "Community Prevention Pop-Up and Wellness Dialogue" which included informal peer-led conversations about stress, coping, and mental wellness; the distribution of culturally competent resources; and a collaborative art/expression activity where community members shared the stressors they were releasing.

### Step Up Anderson

- Movies and curriculum from The Screenagers Project were available to middle school and high school staff and students. A billboard campaign was developed to raise awareness about underage drinking, cannabis use, and substance-free youth activities. The coalition distributed Narcan and Detera medication disposal pouches and promoted their [Step Up to Save Our Children](#) podcast.



## Hispanic Outreach

Over the past year, PreventionFIRST! continued to advance substance use prevention, mental health awareness, and community well-being within Hispanic/Latino communities.

Working with schools, community-based agencies, faith-based organizations, and community leaders, we expanded opportunities for education and outreach around:

- Substance use prevention
- Mental health awareness and emotional well-being
- Reducing stigma surrounding mental health and treatment
- Accessing local behavioral health and recovery resources
- Family communication
- Youth Engagement

## FY25 Highlights

- Latino Youth Summit was held at the House of Joy - approximately 80 youth and adults attended.
- PF! Hispanic Outreach Coordinators were trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).
- Behavioral health prevention was provided to English as a Second Language (ESL) students at two Cincinnati Public Schools (Gilbert A. Dater and James N. Gamble Montessori High Schools).
- In partnerships with Casa de Paz - a domestic violence shelter in Cincinnati, offered behavioral health prevention and Parenting for Prevention trainings to Hispanic women.

# Prevention in Faith Communities

During FY 2025, our faith-based prevention initiatives continued to grow, building momentum across communities and partnerships. The first statewide cohort of faith-based leaders was launched.

The cohort brought together pastors, ministry leaders, lay leaders, faith advocates, and representatives from churches, mosques, and other faith-based organizations. Coordinated by the Faith Leadership Team, the cohort participated in both in-person and virtual trainings.

## Training Topics

- Implementation of the PF! Faith-Based Toolkit
- Substance use/misuse prevention
- Mental health awareness and stigma reduction
- Faith-based suicide prevention
- Supporting the Muslim community with cultural competence
- Sustainability Planning



## Faith Leadership Team

Addiction Services Council, Cincinnati, OH  
Articulated Wisdom, Columbus, OH  
Black Women Cultivating Change, Cincinnati, OH  
Fort McKinley Church, Dayton, OH  
Ohio Department of Behavioral Health  
Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation  
PreventionFIRST!  
Tracy Johnson - TTJ, LLC.  
UMADAOP Dayton

## Faith Cohort - I

A1 Stigma Free Coalition, Cincinnati, OH  
College Hill Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, OH  
Demba Sow, Columbus, OH  
Fort McKinley Church, Dayton, OH  
Global Health Education & Development, Columbus, OH  
Ida Carson Ministries, Dayton, OH  
In Her Honor, Columbus, OH  
Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist, Dayton, OH  
Profound Masterminds Institution, Cincinnati, OH  
RCF Family LIFE Center, Warren, OH  
St. Paul AME Church, Columbus, OH  
Steps of Hope, Columbus, OH  
The House of the Lord, Akron, OH  
The Unity Center of Cincinnati  
TriYou Cares, Warren, OH  
Trumbull County Mental Health & Recovery Board  
Vineyard Christian Church, Columbus, OH

**The Cohort reached 4,470 people.**

## FY25 Highlights

- Day of Blessing Event at Corinthian Baptist Church - reaching 2,200 people.
- First Ladies Health Event - a total of 10 churches helped host this event.
- Coordinated a GenRx training held at New Prospect Baptist Church.
- Our faith community work reached 556 individuals statewide. Faith initiative events were held in Columbus and Dayton, Ohio.

## Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

# Educating & Reducing Access

### Ohio Rx Disposal

- Launched website: OhioRxDisposal.com
- 449 people served; 212 project hours
- Provided safe disposal options for expired or unused medication.
  - Deterra Bags: 6,687
  - Medication lock boxes: 220
  - Sharps disposal containers: 145
  - Educational resources: 1,172

### OneOhio

- 9,626 people were served
- Produced a Deterra Bag demonstration video in Spanish
- Provided safe disposal options for expired or unused medication.
  - Deterra Bags: 7,201
  - Medication lock boxes: 10
  - Educational resources: 300



### State Opioid & Stimulant Response

- 1,288 people were served; 117 project hours
- 700 people attended the Brightness of Glory Hispanic Conference
- 510,290 Media Impressions
- Exhibitor at the Hamilton County NAMI, Love You to Life Walk
- Provided safe disposal options for expired or unused medication.
  - Deterra Bags: 180
  - Educational resources: 40



Cultivating & Championing

# Youth Empowerment

During FY 2025, PreventionFIRST! created opportunities to help youth lead meaningful change, reduce stigma, and support one another in healthy ways. Our work also trained educators and adults on how to create environments that promote mental well-being and support relationships where young people feel safe, valued, and heard.

## Peer Leadership Collaborative (PLC) Leadership Summit

We partner with Cincinnati Public Schools to support the Peer Leadership Collaborative (PLC) Leadership Summit. Engaging approximately 100 students in grades 8–12, the summit focused on developing leadership.

Cincinnati Public Schools alumni shared how the leadership skills they developed through programs such as Girls to Women and Men of M.O.R.E. have helped them make a positive impact in the community.

Mini-grants were awarded to students from Cincinnati Digital Academy, Fairview-Clifton German Language School, and Woodward Career Technical High School to support student-led initiatives that strengthen their schools and communities.





## Behavioral Health and Wellness

The PFI Behavioral Health & Wellness Coordinator at Delhi Middle School plays a vital role in strengthening school and community well-being. This initiative supports staff wellness and organizes opportunities for students and families, including community health events and a food pantry.

The coordinator provides students with a trusted staff member to encourage coping skills, offer support for daily stressors, and promote school success by helping to reduce barriers to attendance, learning, and connection.

### FY25 Highlights

- 3rd Health & Wellness Fair: 250 attendees; 30 vendors; community received free fresh fruits & vegetables, naloxone, fentanyl test strips, wound care kits, condoms, and the opportunity to donate blood.
- A food pantry opened at Delhi Middle School to serve families in the OakHills School District
  - 50+ families served the first year



Delhi Middle School 2025 Recipient

### PreventionFIRST! Carolyn Ford-Griffith Youth Award

At Delhi Middle School, staff, students, and administrators champion mental wellness in many ways. The school recognizes that multiple factors influence students' mental wellness and academic success. To support the whole student, the school has focused on evidence-based prevention strategies that promote attendance, foster a sense of belonging, and strengthen student-teacher relationships.

# Prevention Professionals

## Training & Mentoring

### OCAM Fiscal Year 2025

A team of 13 experienced and certified prevention professionals (OCAM coaches) supported this effort. The initiative was administered by PreventionFIRST! and funded by Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

- 161 trainings
- 3,806 people trained
- 476 people received 1:1 coaching



### Coalition Academy

Our annual Coalition Academy Conference served 114 individuals from Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. This year's theme was "Strengthening the Roots of Coalitions" and participants earned up to 5.25 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in Prevention, CHES, and Social Work.

### Capacity Building Webinars

Webinars are one-hour lunchtime trainings highlighting emerging trends, new research, innovative strategies, and community success stories. Continuing education units are available for prevention and public health professionals, and are provided at no cost.

- It's Not Just for Kids: Engaging Older Adults in Behavioral Health Prevention & Promotion
- WeTHRIVE! Creating a Culture of Health, Safety, Well-Being
- Ask, Listen, Learn: Empowering Kids to say "NO"
- Awareness to Action: Promoting Prevention with Social Media and Operation Parent

# Leadership & Expertise

# Amplifying Prevention

During FY 2025, we were recognized as substance use prevention experts at the local, regional, state, and national levels.

We helped bring groups together for planning and action, to strengthen systems supporting prevention and mental wellness, and champion the prevention work of community coalitions, faithbased communities, and mission-aligning organizations addressing substance use and mental health challenges.

## Rise & Thrive Campus Community Partnership

Funds and supports campus-community partnerships that demonstrate both the need for and importance of prioritizing the mental wellness of Ohio's college students. PFI served on the leadership team for this initiative.

PFI facilitated learning communities for:

- Wright State University - Lake Campus
- Sinclair College
- The Ohio State University - Lima Campus
- Miami University Regional Campuses

## Ohio Wellnes Campus Collaborative

PFI assists campus-community partners in addressing barriers and increasing access to mental and behavioral health resources for students and staff on campus.

PFI facilitated learning communities for:

- Hocking College
- Ohio University Eastern
- Wright State University
- Lourdes University
- Defiance College
- Lake Erie College

Campuses serving as mentors:

- Miami University
- Rhodes State College
- Lakeland Community College
- Bowling Green State University
- The Ohio University Mansfield campus

PFI hosted & organized the 2nd NASPA Certified Peer Educator Training for higher education institutions in Ohio

## Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition

Hamilton County ARC works to end the opioid epidemic by connecting experts across:

- prevention
- treatment
- harm reduction
- first responders/criminal justice
- community engagement
- recovery community

Co-chaired by PreventionFIRST! President & CEO, Nicole Schiesler, the Prevention Pillar goals are:

- fostering collaboration
- streamlining data collection
- outreach in schools
- reducing access



# Evaluating & Measuring **Prevention Impact**

Our ability to understand, measure, and clearly demonstrate our impact sets us apart in the prevention field. Evaluation is fundamental to our success and to the success of our partners and collaborations. To better understand where prevention is working and where new approaches or pivots in programming may be needed, we measured outcomes such as behavior change, reduced risk factors, community-level progress, participation, and program deliverables. This evidence-based approach influences our planning, funding, implementation, and advocacy efforts,

## **Evaluation**

We assess all trainings and programs by measuring knowledge gained, evaluating potential impact and implementation, and identifying where additional coaching, resources, or education may strengthen outcomes. Our goal is to continuously improve the quality and relevance of our trainings and programs.

**Evaluation Surveys: 212**

**Certificates of Attendance Provided: 5,737**





# Impact Report

& Financial Statement

Hours of Service

**3,458.75**

Number of Services Provided

**352**

Media Impressions

**994,924**

**2025**

Fiscal Year

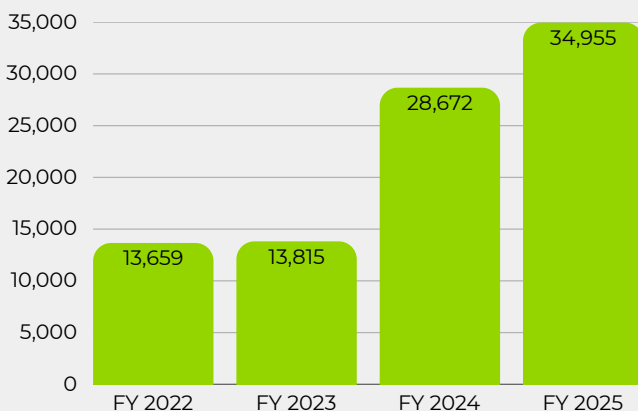
## Into the Community

- Educational Resources Provided **13,659**
- Hours of Training Provided **216.75**
- Hours of Technical Assistance **636.75**

## Staff Professional Devopment

- Hours of Training Attended **474.39**
- Three higher ed students completed internships
- Two staff received Sources of Strength Local Trainer certification

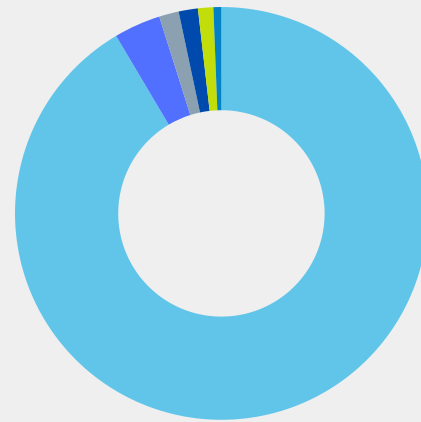
## Number of People Served



FY 2025

## AUDITED REVENUES

**TOTAL: \$2,916,824**

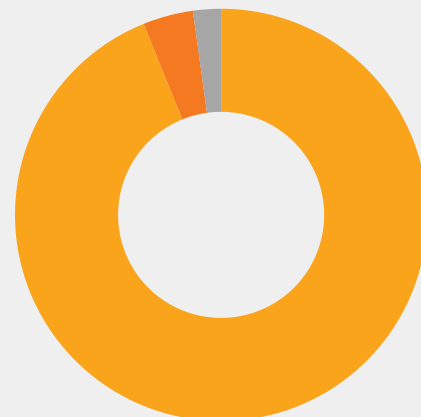


- Government Grants  
\$2,668,311
- Fee for Service  
\$106,533
- Contributed Services  
\$45,000
- Donations/Special Events  
\$43,890
- Private Foundations  
\$35,000
- Investment Income  
\$18,090

FY 2025

## AUDITED FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

**TOTAL: \$2,887,993**



- Program  
\$2,710,921
- Administrative  
\$113,852
- Fundraising  
\$63,220

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## ■ GOVERNMENT GRANTS (\$2,668,311.08)

- Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
  - Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)
- 

## ■ PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS (\$35,000)

- Robert & Adele Schiff Family Foundation
- 

## ■ Contributed Income (\$46,667.86)

### PFI Board of Directors

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Jessika Bass      | Sara Mullins     |
| James Bonsall     | Robert Lesan     |
| Shawn Butler      | Kristin List     |
| Teri Compton      | Patrick Roberson |
| Daniel Cummins    | Steve Saunders   |
| Marc Dizard       | Tiffani Tribble  |
| Lawrence Herbst   | Tim Volpenhein   |
| Julie Holt        | Nathan Wander    |
| Tiffany Mattingly |                  |

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### Corporate

Huntington Bank Rewards  
The Kroger Co. (Kroger Community Rewards)  
Paypal Giving Fund

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## ■ Annual Awards Luncheon (\$32,221.75)

### Impact Level

Cinergy Wealth Life & Legacy of Raymond James  
Interact For Health  
KMK Law

### Sustaining Level

Cincinnati Police Department  
Former U.S. Senator Rob Portman, PFI Founding Chair  
Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation

### Mission Level

James & Marcia Spaeth Kennedy  
Problem Gambling Network Of Ohio  
You Thrive Training & Consulting, LLC  
Zoeller Pump Company  
Award Level  
Pride Surveys

### Award Level

Pride Surveys

### Friend Level

Barnes Dennig  
Ernst & Young  
Gearhart & Associates  
Hope Taft, Ohio First Lady Emeritus, PFI Co-founder  
Julie Holt  
Linder Center for HOPE  
Mount St. Joseph University  
Talbert House

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Awards Luncheon & Fundraiser and helped make it a meaningful celebration of our mission. Your presence, encouragement, and generosity remind us that our work is strengthened by a community that truly cares.

A special thank you to everyone who purchased a centerpiece.