

# Family Success

# STORIES

An FSC Newsletter

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



"At Family Success Center, connecting with our community is at the heart of our mission. From service, to outreach, to raising awareness, we aim to remain positive and stable advocates for families as we expand our capacity to serve each day.

We hope this monthly newsletter shines a light on how Family Success Center is working to uplift your community, through the efforts of those passionately striving to change lives for the better, and showcases the amazing partners, local businesses, fellow organizations, and individuals who support our endeavors and collaborate with us year-round."

**Emma Clapp**  
FSC Executive Director







Family Success Center's Community Garden Initiative built its foundation upon sowing seeds of positive change into the lives of families - promoting health, wellness, education, and community partnership throughout Etowah County.

Food insecurity is defined as the condition of not having access to sufficient food or food of an adequate quality, resulting in the inability to meet one's basic nutritional needs. **According to recent needs assessments, Etowah County's food insecurity rate is 15% - higher than the national average.** Across our neighborhoods, one out of two children (50% of the youth population) experience food insecurity in the home. 15,000 individuals receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits in Etowah County.

Family Success Center is located in East Gadsden, neighboring low-income communities and areas of Etowah County experiencing poverty. Residents living in these neighborhoods often do not have access to fresh produce or sustainable food items, combating food insecurity each day. Financial challenges and lack of transportation emerge as barriers that prevent families from affording and incorporating nourishing food options into their diets, resulting in nutritional deficiencies and health issues.



As a family resource center dedicated to uplifting households, Family Success Center's Community Garden Initiative aims to address these immediate needs in Etowah County, beginning with the East Gadsden community where our office resides. The garden serves a twofold mission of provision and education - as the garden provides families with organic vegetables, it also offers educational opportunities teaching families how to plant and maintain gardens of their own while preparing healthy, budget-friendly recipes to create sustainable, nutritious meals. **All produce grown in the garden is distributed to families free of charge.**



FSC's Community Garden implements positive principles that research verifies, including social connection (promoting gardening contributions from local residents and partnering organizations), physical and mental health benefits (incorporating exercise and outdoor activity), beautifying forgotten or overlooked spaces (creating a ripple effect throughout the county), and increasing food security and healthy practices.

The FSC Community Garden is a collaborative effort between community partners who are passionate about investing in the livelihoods of Etowah County citizens and families. FSC is exceedingly grateful for grant funding provided by the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, alongside partnerships with Modern Woodmen of America, the Etowah County Extension Office, the local branch of Alabama 4-H, Gadsden Islamic Society, and many others. The center is in the process of developing a garden calendar for volunteer organizations to adopt weekly, to encourage participation from all of those contributing to the garden's success and collecting produce.

Family Success Center celebrated this community initiative with a ribbon cutting via The Chamber of Gadsden and Etowah County on Thursday, September 28.



Join us for a special Harvest Festival  
and Community Garden Work Day on  
Thursday, October 26 from 1:00 p.m. to  
5:00 p.m.





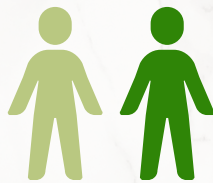
# POSITIVE PLANTING

**Food Insecurity** is defined as the condition of not having access to sufficient food or food of an adequate quality, resulting in the inability to meet one's basic nutritional needs.

**Family Success Center's Community Garden Initiative** built its foundation upon sowing seeds of positive change into the lives of families – promoting health, wellness, education, and community partnership throughout Etowah County.

15% +

15% of Etowah County's population experiences some form of food insecurity.



One in two children in Etowah County do not have access to sufficient and nutritional food.

15,000

15,000 people receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits in Etowah County.

## FUTURE HARVEST

Improve access by partnering with those that know the needs of the community to bring healthy food options to convenient locations for all individuals needing food assistance.

### Neighboring approaches / Ideas to consider:

- food drives
- micro pantries in schools
- mobile pantry
- transportation changes to get participants safely to access healthy food (garden, retail store, etc.)
- food prescription program
- local policies (example: *Denver passed the Denver Food Producing Animals Ordinance in 2011 permitting residents to maintain up to eight chickens and/or ducks and up to two goats on a single property*)





WHO SAID HIGH SCHOOL'S STUCK IN THE PAST?

80'S

Panic

AT THE PROM

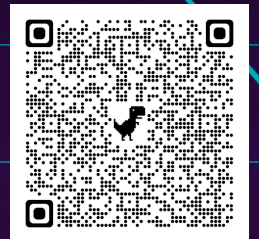
AN INTERACTIVE MURDER  
MYSTERY PARTY EXPERIENCE

BENEFITTING THE INCLUSIVE NEEDS PROGRAM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11  
TAIVAS FARM  
1713 GREEN VALLEY ROAD  
GLENCOE, AL 35905  
5:00 P.M.

[CLICK HERE TO BUY](#)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!







# Upcoming Events

**OCTOBER 26**

## **COMMUNITY GARDEN WORK DAY & HARVEST FESTIVAL**

THURS. OCTOBER 26

FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER OFFICE

821 EAST BROAD STREET, GADSDEN AL 35903

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**OCTOBER 28**

## **TRUNK OR TREAT**

SAT. OCTOBER 28

FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER OFFICE

821 EAST BROAD STREET, GADSDEN AL 35903

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**NOVEMBER 11**

## **PANIC AT THE PROM**

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TAIVAS FARM

1713 GREEN VALLEY RD, GLENCOE, AL 35905

5:00 P.M.

