

LiveWell Greater Toledo

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LiveWell is a diverse collaboration of community leaders and organizations working together to promote policy, systems, and environmental change for a healthier community. The organization focuses on offering opportunities to individuals in underserved areas of our community to increase physical activity and improve eating habits. LiveWell has worked with partners in the community, including the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, city and county engineers, as well as other non-profit agencies, to develop a regional complete streets policy to increase access to spaces for physical activity through the incorporation of sidewalks, bike lanes, multi-use paths, and other features. Also related to physical activity, LiveWell has developed a School Travel Plan for all 40 Toledo Public Elementary Schools through the Safe Routes to School initiative, which focuses on encouraging children to use active transportation to get to and from school through policy, system, and environmental changes. To increase access to healthier food options, LiveWell has worked with corner stores in the Toledo area to provide fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthier food/snack options. Due to their efforts, produce and other healthy options are now displayed and marketed at 11 convenience stores, with plans in place to expand to another 40 stores in the next two years. In addition to this expansion, LiveWell is currently working with a convenience store chain in the community that plans to expand this initiative within the chain through policy, making true systemic change. These policies will improve the health status of Toledo residents in areas that physical activity and fresh fruit were previously not available and serve as a template for other cities to implement policies.

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