

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Family Connections Strengthens Its Mission with New Partnership

Cleveland, OH - [11/2/23] - Family Connections of Northeast Ohio, a community nonprofit focused on building strong families through early literacy, parenting support, and school readiness services, is excited to announce a significant partnership that will further enhance its mission to improve the lives of families.

The organization is joining forces with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to create a new Family Playroom operating out of the food bank's new Community Resource Center, 15500 South Waterloo Road Cleveland, OH 44110, which held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

We are pleased to announce our initial on-site hours at the Community Resource Center playroom, which are as follows:

Monday: 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Tuesday: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday: 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Fridays: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Family Connections' Family Playrooms are imaginative, hands-on space for parents and children ages 0 through 5 and are designed to support early childhood development and school readiness skills through interactive adult-child play.

At Family Connections, we understand that parents need support and resources to be the best caregivers they can be. In our playrooms, we build unique relationships and provide parent support to help parents build upon their strengths, develop connections, and enhance their parenting skills.

Family Connections is guided by a 2Gen methodology designed to create a supportive and welcoming environment for families, fostering the growth and development of children. Within our new Family Playroom at the Community Resource Center, we aim to host intake consultations for our SPARK program, and potentially offer instructional sessions to help families provide their young children with essential tools and knowledge for academic success.

Family Connections is excited to support the Greater Cleveland Food Bank's mission to address the underlying causes of hunger and poverty. The Family

Playroom in the Community Resource Center will be a space where children and their parents or caregivers may come together to play and learn.

“We are thrilled to partner with so many anchor nonprofit organizations that all provide core programs and services to ensure that all members of our community have the resources and support they need to thrive,” said Executive Director Beth Darmstadter. “While Family Connections focuses on supporting families of children from birth to six, we know that raising and caring for young children to be successful learners requires a holistic approach and cannot be addressed in a vacuum. If a child needs medical care, food, or clothing, they will be challenged to succeed in early childhood learning and play programs. We are so grateful to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank for its leadership in this groundbreaking program that we believe will be a national model for partnership to improve the health, education, and developmental outcomes of our youngest members.”

By partnering with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, Family Connections is expanding its reach and making its services easily accessible to more families so that the organization may continue to provide vital support to parents and children, ensuring a strong foundation for the future.

With Family Connections as an anchor partner, the food bank’s Community Resource Center will offer a holistic approach to supporting families. This partnership signifies a substantial step towards connecting those in need with the comprehensive services required for them to thrive.

About Family Connections:

Family Connections of Northeast Ohio is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage families with young children to nurture social connections, enhance child development and improve school readiness. The organization has been helping families grow stronger together for 40 years by providing parenting support and educational opportunities for families with children from birth through age 6 throughout Northeast Ohio. Family Connections offers year-round and free programs and services for families and children to learn and play together.

Family Connections is committed to empowering families with young children succeed in school and life. Providing a wide range of services and programs in multiple community, school and library locations, Family Connections has expanded services into more Cleveland neighborhoods through programs such

as SPARK (Supporting Partners to Assure Ready Kids), our school readiness program for families with 3 and 4-year-olds, and Family Support Playrooms.

For more information about Family Connections, please visit familyconnections1.org.

For more information about the Cleveland Food Bank and its mission, please visit greaterclevelandfoodbank.org.

Contact: Paul Rowley, Administrative and Communications Manager, Family Connections

Phone: (216) 921-2023 or (216) 321-0079

Email: prowley@familyconnections1.org