

Project Team Biographies

Suzanne Saggese has worked for OSU Extension for five years with community nutrition in Lucas County. She started as a Program Assistant for EFNEP youth and is currently serving as a Program Coordinator for SNAP-Ed. In 2017, Suzanne earned her MS at OSU in Agriculture and Extension Education. Her topics of expertise include Farm to School and improving access to healthy foods in limited income neighborhoods. She has collaborated with community partners on topics such as the Healthy Corner Store Initiative and Summer Food Service Program.

Patrice Powers-Barker is an Extension Educator for Family and Consumer Sciences in Lucas County. When she started work for Extension 19 years ago, she was a Program Assistant with Neighborhood Community Gardens. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts from Hiram College and a Master of Arts in Family Life Education. The topic of Local Foods lends well with empowering families to learn about food and resources in their community as well as to make family goals to prepare and eat more meals together. In 2017 Patrice was interviewed Dean Fosdick, an Associated Press author for a national article titled, "For Easy Meals, Plant Menu Gardens of Favorite Food".

Amy Stone is an Extension Educator with Ohio State University in Lucas County. She began working with Extension in 1992, and has been in Lucas County since 2000. Amy has earned degrees from Owens Community College and the University of Toledo including a Master's Degree in Vocational Education. Amy works with gardeners across the lifespan from youth in school gardens to retirees in community gardens and volunteer roles. Amy manages the Lucas County Master Gardener Program as well as the Master Gardener Horticulture Hotline that runs three days a week in Lucas County. She is proficient with questions about plants and diseases and insects and she writes a regular garden column for the Toledo Blade.

Holly Ball joined the Ohio State University Extension in May of 2017 as the County Extension Director for Lucas and Wood Counties. While gaining her Bachelors of Social Work at Central Michigan University, Holly served as an AmeriCorps Member for 4h Mentor Michigan Initiative through Michigan State University Extension. She has worked in Detroit and Portland Oregon as a social worker and then worked at the United Way of Greater Toledo. There she helped to steward a combined \$13.8 million in community investments through managing nonprofit partnerships impacting access to healthcare and increasing healthy lifestyles. Holly currently serves on the Board of Directors for YMCA Storer Camps and volunteers with many community groups.



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