

## A SPRING FAMILY AFFAIR Franklin D. Roosevelt Middle School Cleveland, Ohio

Over sixty community organizations and political groups conducted workshops and/or manned information booths. More than 250 families attended. This fantastic turnout was for the Spring Family Affair, an event held for the first time at Franklin D. Roosevelt Middle School. The goals of this partnership practice were to celebrate families of the two communities that comprise the school, create awareness of supportive services available, and honor families for their contributions to their city. Students played a big role in the success of this event.

A team of community organizations, businesses, parent groups, and churches organized the event. Team members did everything from soliciting donations, organizing the program and workshops, seeking entertainment, contacting the media, engaging local politicians, and coordinating an essay contest for students in grades six through eight. Churches promoted the event to the community, and a local magazine provided coverage.

The Spring Family Affair opened with student performances by the drill team, choir, and wind ensemble. Next, participants attended one-hour workshops conducted by school staff, parents, and community representatives. The workshops focused on various topics including parent empowerment, family literacy, excellence in education, social ser-

vices and health care, communities of faith, summer family activities, and teens who excel. The choice of 25 workshops provided participants with opportunities to learn about recreational and supportive services in their community. Students attended workshops focused on achievement and goal setting. Throughout the event, community groups performed musical entertainment.

As part of the Spring Family Affair, students could submit essays for a contest that asked, "What Does Family Mean to Me?" Over 60 students voluntarily wrote essays. Student winners received a savings bond.

The biggest challenge to the Spring Family Affair was making it manageable to implement. The team accomplished its goal by delegating responsibilities, planning early, and communicating often. "This was an excellent culmination of a year's planning," said the team's project coordinator. "We had a wonderful response." The Spring Family Affair gave students an opportunity to showcase their talents and develop leadership skills, while families were empowered by knowledge of community resources.

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