What do tennis courts and the Poe Center have in common? They are great places for health education - so are sidewalks, growers’ markets, and high schools. Thanks to donors and sponsors like you, many of Poe’s most innovative programs in 2022 evolved from creative collaborations, taking Poe’s health education programs directly to new audiences in more locations. These are just a few highlights of what you helped Poe achieve in the last year. You’ve made this and more possible. Want to learn more? Tour Poe, visit our website, or volunteer.

The Poe Center’s Reach*

1,656 Programs Taught
44,928 Participants Taught
31 Counties Served
7 Million Social Media Users Reached

- Youth leaders facilitated 15 presentations on the effects of youth vaping for 146 youth and 469 adults, including 11 policy makers.
- Staff educated 90% of the tobacco merchants in Wake and Johnston counties and distributed 500 Check-ID calendars to support merchants in preventing youth access to alcohol and tobacco products.
- Garden programs comprised over ⅓ of SNAP-Ed programs.
- Dental programs reached over 765 preschool- and elementary-aged children.
- 90 new youth leaders and community partners were trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid.
- Staff distributed 564 medication lock boxes, 903 disposal kits, and 45 cabinet safety locks.
- 129 students participated in Poe’s new after-school program at local high schools.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Poe continued its commitment to combating racism and creating a more intentionally inclusive culture for staff and constituents.
- The Equity Committee is in the process of developing and testing an equity rubric that will assess Poe programs in a number of categories, including but not limited to: access, identities, equity and inclusion, intersectionality, and representation.
- Equity-themed activities demonstrating personal privilege were used at the Board of Directors annual retreat to identify ways Poe can be more intentional with the communities it serves.

*All data up-to-date as of 8/31/2022
Impact & Accomplishments

Taking it to the Courts
Thanks to funding from the National Tennis Foundation and a partnership with the National Junior Tennis Leagues, health educators met with 169 middle and high school athletes, on the tennis courts, to provide weekly nutrition and physical activity lessons, in addition to healthy snacks.

Growing the Fuquay-Varina Growers’ Market
Residents and neighbors of Fuquay-Varina have more access to farm-fresh produce thanks to a collaboration between the Poe Center and the Fuquay-Varina Chamber of Commerce. Now in its second season, the market features benefits for low-income families, buybacks from farmers, produce donations to local food banks, bilingual materials, and educational and entertainment activities. Over 12,000 people visited the market in the 2022 season.

“After Hours” Program Encourages Personal and Professional Growth
Over 120 highschool students participated in a new after-school program at local schools (East Wake, Enloe, Southeast, and Wake Early College high schools) thanks to a grant from 21st Century. With an emphasis on building health-focused skills, the “After Hours” program also provided academic support, life skills programs, health-science career exploration, CPR/First Aid certifications, field trips, and family engagement programs to students in academic need. A summer extension program was also offered at the Poe Center to help reduce learning loss.

New & Improved: Visit the Poe Center’s Website
A fresh modern look with vibrant photos and easier navigation are just a few of the improvements on the Poe Center’s redesigned website. Major new functions include a convenient keyword search, a program directory which sorts programs by grade and topic, and a searchable directory of recommended sources. Visit the NEW www.poehealth.org today.

New Outdoor Artwork Completes 5-year Vision
The Poe Center completed its five-year initiative to make the outside as exciting and educational as the inside. Collages of eighteen colorful large-scale icons depicting Poe’s educational areas now greet anyone who passes Poe on Sunnybrook Road. Poe was recognized for using public art as an innovative approach to health education with the 2021 Sir Walter Raleigh Award for community appearance.