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AFTER-SCHOOL ALL-STAR AMBASSADORS COOK UP FUN DURING ANNUAL DINNER WITH FIRST LADY KAREN KASICH



COLUMBUS— After-School All-Star Ambassadors visited the Ohio Governor’s Residence and Heritage Garden this week to cook and dine with Ohio First Lady Karen W. Kasich. The annual event gives students hands-on experience in meal preparation while learning about healthy food choices from Columbus-based nonprofit Local Matters.

Under the guidance of Local Matters, the middle-school students chopped, stirred, and cooked ingredients for a guacamole

and salsa appetizer followed by a chicken taco entrée. The All-Star chefs also enjoyed gathering herbs from the Residence’s Heritage Garden. It is the fourth year Mrs. Kasich and student ambassadors from After-School All-Stars (ASAS) Ohio Chapter have shared this spring tradition.

“Celebrating the achievements of these All-Star student leaders is one of the highlights of the year for me. It’s a privilege getting to know them a little better, to encourage them in their efforts, and enjoy some fun and laughter in the Residence kitchen,” said First Lady Kasich. “The Governor and I are grateful for the commitment of the After-School All-Stars staff and their dedication to maintain and grow this tremendous program for Ohio’s children.”

As statewide Ambassador for After-School All-Stars, Mrs. Kasich also supports the organization with visits to participating ASAS schools and joining in ASAS health and fitness events.

“It was an exciting and certainly unique experience for our students to visit the Governor’s Residence and dine with Ohio’s First Lady,” said Sienna Daniel, executive director of After-School All-Stars Ohio. “The After-School All-Stars program serves children from some of our poorest neighborhoods, where academic failure, hunger, and violence are the accepted norm. The support of Governor and Mrs. Kasich is having a tremendous impact each and every day on our efforts to improve the life chances of our All-Star students.”

Local Matters has collaborated with After-School All-Stars and First Lady Kasich on this hands-on culinary event for the past four years.

“Local Matters is proud to partner with First Lady Kasich on the annual After-School All-Stars dinner,” said Michelle Moskowitz Brown, executive director for Local Matters. “In addition to recognizing these outstanding student leaders, the dinner provides an excellent opportunity for them to learn the basics around meal preparation and the importance of making positive, healthful food choices.”

After-School All-Stars Ohio, part of a nationwide program, partners with schools and communities to provide free, high quality after-school programs for approximately 1,000 low-income students in Columbus and Toledo. ASAS Ohio also partners with Local Matters to teach All-Star students what healthy food is, how to grow it, and how to cook it.

According to ASAS Ohio, youth who routinely attend high-quality programs over two years have demonstrated improved academic achievement compared to their peers who were routinely unsupervised during the after-school hours. The organization seeks to help students graduate high school, go to college, find a meaningful career, and give back to their communities.

For more information about First Lady Kasich and her initiatives, visit firstlady.ohio.gov. Learn more about After-School All-Stars and Local Matters by visiting their websites: asasohio.org and local-matters.org.

To download a high-resolution version of the picture above, click [here](#).

