**A Vision for a Connected and Healthy Butler County**

A healthy community is one in which members are connected to both physical resources and to each other. Necessary resources include access to quality primary, specialty, and preventative health care, as well as nutritious food and recreational opportunities. Connection to one another promotes a sense of belonging, supportive relationships, empowerment, and engagement. The well-being of a community is a reflection of physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and financial health. All members of a community are responsible for the health of the community, and work in collaboration with one another, elected officials, first responders, the medical community, mental health and addiction organizations, businesses, educators, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the faith community. A connected community provides opportunity for all members to lead a healthy lifestyle and meet their full potential.

**Community Values**

* **Unity:** A healthy community has a strong sense of unity among its members. A desire to belong and help one another is necessary for all to feel safe, connected, and invested.
* **Respect:** Respect for all people and property is evident when community members feel valued and the physical environment is cared for and appears welcoming to others. Differences should be expected and embraced.

*Partnership for a Healthier Butler County*

* **Healthy Lifestyle:** Adequate opportunities to live a healthy lifestyle include access to comprehensive wellness and preventative health care, substance abuse prevention and treatment, nutritious foods, safe neighborhoods, parks, and trails, and recreational activities for all ages and physical abilities.
* **Kindness:** Regular kind and caring interactions among members are essential in order to foster compassion and empathy.
* **Education:** Access to health information and opportunities for education improves awareness of healthy behaviors, health promotion, and available resources.

