A Community School is a quilt to which all stakeholders in the school – administration, staff, students, families, community members, partners, the lead agency, and out-of-school-time programs all add their own square. Without the involvement of any of these groups, the quilt has a hole, and isn’t as warm. The Community Schools of the University of Maryland School of Social Work’s Positive Schools Center continually engage all of these stakeholders in the process of building this quilt – which will provide learning, growth, success and pride in our schools and neighborhoods as they face great obstacles. Each of our four current Community Schools – James McHenry E/M, Wolfe Street Academy, Wildwood E/M and Harlem Park E/M have very different stories and vary in the time they have been using the Community School strategy. However, they join together in their active approach to gathering the resources and tools needed to help students, families and neighborhoods overcome barriers to learning and stability.
WOLFE STREET implemented a new office referral system that offered various levels of intervention for students in need, beginning with a 10-minute session in the Mindfulness Room with a trained social work intern or office staff. As a result, 76% of office referrals resulted in a mindfulness session and return to classroom, or a restorative conference.

HARLEM PARK started an elected student government, and are excited to be involved in planning for the re-opening of their neighborhood recreation center.

WILDWOOD hosted over 500 youth, ages 5-14 years old, who hailed from throughout the city of Baltimore, at their various camps and summer programs throughout the months of July and August.

JAMES MCHENRY further expanded their STEM offerings by starting a new engineering program for the school, and serving over 30 students and alumni in their STEM college and career readiness out-of-school time program.

Pounds of Food Donated = 99,085
Uniforms and Winter Coats Supplied = 230
Vision Screenings = 1,210
Glasses Given = 474
Dentist Visits = 75
Asthma Treatments = 96
Out of School Time Program Participants = 1,205