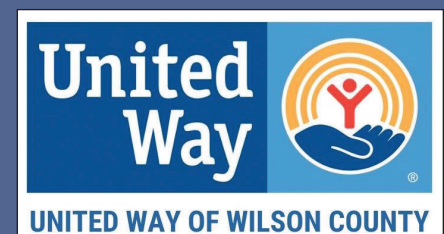


# United Way Campaign

2021

Great things happen  
when we Live United



# VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a power that can provide immediate impact on the lives of many. The United Way of Wilson County connects people to quality volunteer opportunities while also raising awareness of services and programs available throughout our community. Volunteers make Wilson County a better place to work and live through the hands-on action approach they take to make a positive change within our community. Our United Way agencies and our volunteers work together to provide warm meals to homebound senior citizens. We mentor at-risk youth and teach life skills through character-building. We provide reassurance and aid when disaster strikes, offer life and job skills to disabled adults and give 24/7 assistance by answering calls to prevent or aid in the time of a crisis. The United Way and our volunteers collectively bring our community together. We lift up those in need and create a stronger community. We thank our past, present and future volunteers for dedicating their time to help others.



**THANK YOU**  
**FOR GETTING INVOLVED.**  
**CHANGING LIVES.**  
**LIVING UNITED.**

## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Corporate partners play an instrumental role in the United Way's work to make our community stronger. We can provide opportunities for your organization to engage your employees in volunteer efforts that exist throughout Wilson County. We can assist you in reaching your community service goals by connecting you with a wide range of agencies who work tirelessly every day to provide services and programs to those in need. Volunteering encourages teamwork, builds leaders, and connects your company to worthwhile and meaningful projects throughout our community. The United Way can offer a diverse range of volunteer ideas from a variety of non-profits that will fit your company's interests and schedules. From opportunities held "In-House" at your office, preparing literacy kits for children and homebound seniors, to participating in large community events as a team or "In-Agency" volunteer projects, we look forward to working with you to create a volunteering plan that fits your needs and ensures your organization is helping make a positive impact on our community.

## INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERING

Want to get started right way? Start Here: Visit [unitedwayofwilson.org](http://unitedwayofwilson.org) and click VOLUNTEER to learn more. It is a fun and easy way to learn how you can be a part of creating lasting change in our community.

# 2021 CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

## *Great Things Happen When You Live United!*

On June 15, 2021, I turned on the evening news and heard that for the first time in over a year, UNC Hospital had no Covid patients in their care. It was refreshing to hear something positive being reported! The perspective of what the past year has been like for so many people has weighed on me personally and often leads me to the question that many of you may have as well, now what? What does our new normal look like? If you haven't been personally affected by hardship, sickness or adversity, you know someone in your life who has. It has been hard to focus on everyday life with so much hurt and sadness going on around us. There is so much work to be done- emotionally, mentally, and relationally with what we have all been re-given, opportunity.

I have been involved with some aspect of the United Way, be it as a donor or campaign volunteer, for roughly twelve years. I have heard the countless testimonials and ways the United Way has made a difference in the lives within our community. There is one story that was shared at a company kickoff event that has stuck with me. A United Way representative shared that a lady contacted the office because she needed assistance due to flooding and damage to her home. In the process of questions and answers to determine what type of assistance

could be provided, the lady verbalized that her home was a tent in the woods that had been severely damaged by a recent storm and she needed a new one. At that moment, perspective rolled down my cheeks.

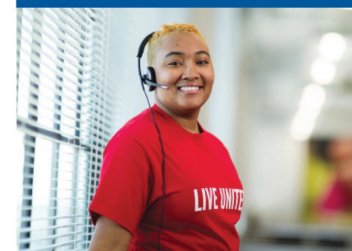
Home is where your heart is and Wilson County is blessed to have so many giving hearts who call this community their home. Since 1959, the United Way has served as a beacon of light for our community to provide a helping hand but we were not sure what the 2020 United Way campaign would look like. The challenges of the world coming to a standstill took away the hands on, in-person approach for people to learn about our agencies and have the opportunity to give. The United Way and its agencies worked diligently and creatively to continue to meet the needs of our citizens, many of whom were requesting help for the first time due to sickness, job loss, schools closing, and the list goes on. None of this would have been possible without the continued support given to the United Way Campaign.

We consider each of you who contributed to the 2020 campaign as the heroes among us. Even though you may have been dealing with hardships yourselves, you continued to be that beacon of light during an unimaginable time. My friends, the need and opportunity is still ever present. I find so much

truth in a quote by Jodi Picoult, "Heroes are ordinary people who know that even if their own lives are impossibly knotted, they could untangle someone else's. And maybe that one act could lead someone to rescue you right back." We are all one crisis away from needing the help of our neighbors, family and friends. The United Way and its agencies have been there and will continue to be there to provide that much needed support because of the kindness you provide through donated time and funds. GREAT THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE LIVE UNITED. I can't think of a more critical time than now for us to unite for our community through the 2021 United Way Campaign.

**Grateful,**  
Tracy Mitchell

Do you or someone you know need assistance?  
Help Starts Here!



**2-1-1**

North Carolina

Dial 2-1-1 to connect with a network of over 20,000 resources right here in North Carolina. 211's most frequent requests are for housing, food, and utility assistance.

Wilson Crisis Center  
**237-5156**

Dial 237-5156 to receive local human service crisis information for Wilson County 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

[www.UnitedWayofWilson.org](http://www.UnitedWayofWilson.org)  
252.237.3194

## SERVING THE GREATER GOOD

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UNITED WAY IN THEIR SERVICE TO  
WILSON COUNTY SINCE 1959.



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COLLEGE  
BOLD THINKERS BOLD LEADERS



**UNITED WAY OF WILSON COUNTY**





# United Way of Wilson County

## *Looking toward the future!*

Like the rest of the world, The United Way of Wilson County was significantly impacted by COVID19. While having to follow CDC guidelines and come to terms with our "new normal" we still needed to raise funds for our annual campaign in order to help our community.

In March of 2020 we started a COVID19 Community Relief Fund. The funds raised have been distributed to agencies on the front line providing basic needs in Wilson over the past year. We saw a tremendous amount of support from our fellow community members and we are continuing to raise funds for those that have been left in the wake of the pandemic.

As we entered into 2021 we hoped, along with the rest of the world, that the COVID19 Pandemic might start to be a thing of the past.

As vaccinations rolled out, we started to hope that we might get back to our "old normal". As we started planning for our campaign to ramp up again for 2021, we realized that we can't go back to our "old normal" - the world and Wilson County have changed. COVID19 while we are hopeful to see its exit - it has opened up the door for progress.

In 2020 we had to reassess how we ran our United Way Campaign - how would we reach thousands of people when we can't meet them in person to share our story? We brought our team together and collaborated until we found a way. We overhauled and updated our website making it more user friendly, we gave donors the opportunity to give online, we allowed organizations to run their employee campaigns

through a digital platform, we fundraised for our COVID19 Relief Fund and we met via zoom with volunteers, donors, and organizations.

While all of these updates have been progressive and successful, we are hopeful to be able to meet our donors, volunteers, and supporting organizations in person as we ramp up the 2021 United Way Campaign. We have missed seeing our community in person! But we won't forget what 2020 taught us as an organization. We will be flexible, resilient, hard-working, and we will continue to fight for our agencies and our community no matter what the world throws at us. With new tools in our pocket and the world opening back up - we are ready to look towards the future and work to make the 2021 United Way Campaign successful!

***BRIDGESTONE***  
*Your Journey, Our Passion*

**NOW  
HIRING**

**Our teammates at  
Bridgestone's Wilson Plant  
supported the United Way with \$333,470.26.**

**THANK YOU for your  
caring and generosity.**





# Help Can't Wait During Emergencies

In times of crisis, the American Red Cross is fortunate to witness the best of humanity. Emergencies haven't stopped during COVID-19, and people in the Wilson community have stepped up in all kinds of ways to help their neighbors. Over the last year, the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross has continued in Wilson County.

After disasters of all sizes, the Red Cross is offering assistance—financial aid, emotional support, health services and more. “Home fires remain the most frequent disaster during COVID-19, yet most of us don't realize the danger and devastation they pose,” said Mace Robinson, Executive Director for the American Red Cross Northeastern North Carolina Chapter.

“Over the last 12 months alone, the Red Cross has assisted 32 families affected by home fires and disasters in Wilson County,” said Robinson. “The Red Cross provided financial assistance to a 100 people for immediate needs such as shelter, food, and clothing. Local volunteers and support from the United Way of Wilson County make our lifesaving mission possible.”

People are also helping to save lives. When tens of thousands of blood drives were canceled as the pandemic forced schools and businesses to close, the Wilson community rolled up their sleeves. Many Wilson area partners offered their facilities for blood drives. As they have done time after time in moments of crisis, selfless volunteer blood donors stepped up to meet the need, helping us restock this critical resource for patients with serious medical conditions.

We're helping people in other ways too—assisting military members, veterans, and their families. Many of our services are still virtual, including the “Get to Know Us Before You Need Us” pre-deployment briefings, our COVID-19-specific Resiliency Program course and our Military and Veteran Caregiver Network. We continue to answer emergency calls 24/7.

As the nation transitions to a new, hopeful phase of this devastating pandemic and the Red Cross con-

tinues to looking for volunteers who are able to assist these families and help Wilson prepare for disasters large and small. The Red Cross also needs organizations with facilities that can sponsor blood drives.

The Red Cross is a volunteer-driven organization striving to shelter, feed and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members, veterans and their families. Last year, Red Cross collected over 3,000 blood donations and handled 128 emergency services for military members and veterans in Wilson County.

To learn more about the Red Cross and volunteer opportunities in Wilson, visit [www.unitedwayofwilson.org](http://www.unitedwayofwilson.org) and click “Volunteer” or contact the Wilson Red Cross at 252-237-2171.



*Celebrating 39 Years of Serving  
Wilson County Youth 1982-2021*

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of Wilson County

Youth Oriented Understanding Through Help

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CHANGE TWO LIVES BY MENTORING A YOUNG PERSON!**

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Our youth need volunteers like YOU!*

Visit us at [youthofwilson.org](http://youthofwilson.org)  
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# The Arc of Wilson County

The Arc of Wilson County started 2020 off with a ton of excitement for the upcoming year. After a successful 2019 and fresh off the success of the 3rd Annual Wilson Gobble Wobble, The Arc of Wilson County's Board of Directors were starting the year off in planning mode. There were plans being made to make The 27th Annual Taste of Wilson a more festive event with live music and vendors at The Wilson County Fairgrounds. The Hope Singers had begun to rehearse for their annual Spring Concert. Noah's Friends' Bowling League was in the process of getting new bowling balls for all of the bowlers. Then everything came to a halt.

The Arc of Wilson County had to stop all of its programs as they are all social activities taking place in person in the evenings and weekends. The Taste of Wilson couldn't be held. Camp Sunshine had to be cancelled. We were at a loss.

In order to continue the streak of



The Annual Taste of Wilson without skipping a year, The Arc of Wilson reached out to local restaurants who were still operating in some capacity and created a Taste Ticket that was very different from the previous 26 Taste of Wilsons. Instead of receiving a 'taste' or sample from the partici-

pating restaurants during such a difficult time, the ticket could be used to receive a discount or free item with a purchase. This was done purposefully so that the restaurants who were so accustomed to supporting The Arc of Wilson County and Camp Sunshine through The Taste of Wilson were also receiving support when they couldn't be open at full capacity. The funds raised from The 27th Annual Taste of Wilson are being used for scholarships for Camp Sunshine in 2021 since Camp Sunshine was cancelled in 2020.

With the cancellation of Camp Sunshine, The Arc of Wilson County created a calendar of summer activities for families to do at home with

their children. Daily activities were posted on The Arc of Wilson County's Facebook along with weekly videos from our Executive Director about The Arc of Wilson County and his personal life as well as our Camp Director singing songs that our campers were familiar with.

The Arc of Wilson County's Wilson Gobble Wobble 5k and 1-mile fun run, walk, or wobble was also a bit different from the first three years. Our board decided that while the event is an outdoor event, we couldn't risk anyone contracting COVID-19 at one of our events. The event was changed to a "race anywhere" event where participants were able to compete in The Wilson Gobble Wobble from anywhere in the world with the use of the registration website app. The Arc of Wilson County still had event shirts made and shipped them out so participants could wear their gear when completing the event. The Arc of Wilson County also made face masks with The Arc of Wilson County's logo that could be purchased.

In May of 2021, with the country on the mend, The Arc of Wilson County held The 28th Annual Taste of Wilson at The Wilson County Fairgrounds. While things were starting to return to normal, we still couldn't risk a large in-person event like the traditional Taste of Wilson. This year, we had a drive through event with 12 different restaurants and vendors. Ticket holders remained in their vehicles and drove around the midway at the fairgrounds. Volunteers handed each ticket holder their tastes from our participating vendors. The event sold out of its 250 tickets and even though we had great feedback from this event, we are excited for 2022 so we can execute our original 2020 plan!

Now, The Arc of Wilson County is slowly starting to resume programs. Camp Sunshine started on June 21 and will continue through the end of July. Noah's Friends has been on several outings this year cheering on The Wilson Tobs and we will be starting Noah's Friends Bowling League and Hope Singers rehearsals again soon. Like and follow The Arc of Wilson County on Facebook to stay up to date with our programs and events!



## WILSON CRISIS CENTER

### 24-HOUR HOTLINE 237-5156

- Daily Hello Calls and Med Calls Programs - 237-5156
- Teen Help Line - 4-8 PM Monday-Friday - 243-6444

• Centro De Crisis/Linea De Ayuda Hispanã

24-Hr. Spanish Information Hotline - 237-7626

*If you need to talk, we're there to listen!*

**Up To Date Resources & Referrals**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A UNITED WAY AGENCY



# Diversified Opportunities, Inc.

No one ever doubted Dee Jay's abilities on the baseball diamond, but the former high school star began to doubt himself when his future was rearranged several years ago by a collision with a drunk driver that left him in a wheelchair. With work opportunities limited, Dee Jay found that others doubted his abilities when he did find a job. "They looked at me like I was in a wheelchair and didn't think I could do the job," he said.

But all he ever needed was a chance to flourish. Through Diversified Opportunities, Inc., Dee Jay found not only a support system but a job in which he has thrived. He's

now employed by Johnston County Industries and operates machinery in the knitting department. "Everybody's been really helpful and they gave me a chance to do whatever I wanted to do," he said. "They didn't just look at me (and think), 'you're in a wheelchair, and you can't do this.' They actually gave me a chance. If I can't do it, I can't do it, but if I can, I can."

Tanya Bryant, DOI Employment Specialist, knows there's a lot Dee Jay can do. "His disabilities do not affect his abilities," she said. Tanya related how Dee Jay repairs lawnmowers as a side business and had

built his own four-wheeler. "He was just so impressive to me when I first met him that I was like, 'Oh wow, I have got to find him a job'" she said. DOI helped Dee Jay find employment pre-COVID but when the coronavirus pandemic hit last spring, he was among the workers laid off by the company. Even during the process of finding a new job, Dee Jay was at times overwhelmed by anxiety when it came to job interviews. By July, Tanya found a position for him at JCI. His supervisor, Rob McGhee, said that Dee Jay has proven himself to be an indispensable member of the team and excels in every area of the warehouse. And "he's a great guy," Rob said.

The anxiety is gone and Dee Jay hasn't missed a day of work at JCI. "Everybody is real helpful and they look out for me," he said. "They

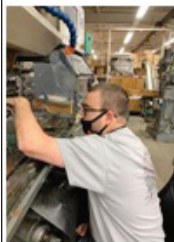
**Diversified Opportunities, Inc.**  
1010 Herring Avenue Wilson, NC 27893  
Email: [doi@doiwilson.com](mailto:doi@doiwilson.com)  
Website: [www.doiwilson.com](http://www.doiwilson.com)  
Serving Wilson, Greene & Wayne Counties  
Since 1975

actually gave me a chance. That means everything. I'm really happy. I couldn't ask for anything better!"

To learn more about Dee Jay's Employment Services program or any other services at DOI call (252)291-0378 or email Ericka Simmons, Program Manager, at [esimmons@doiwilson.com](mailto:esimmons@doiwilson.com).

## DIVERSIFIED OPPORTUNITIES, INC.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE SINCE 1975



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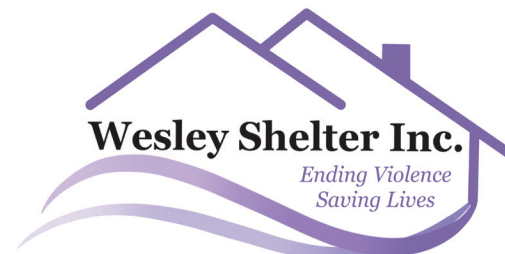
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Diversified Opportunities, Inc.  
1010 Herring Avenue Wilson, NC 27893  
Email: [doi@doiwilson.com](mailto:doi@doiwilson.com) Website: [www.doiwilson.com](http://www.doiwilson.com)  
Serving Wilson, Greene & Wayne Counties Since 1975



DOI'S MISSION is to provide life skills training, job training and job placement services to individuals age 16 and older with disabilities or disadvantaged circumstances so that they may secure an optimal earned income and enhance their independence in the community.



106 E. Vance Street, Wilson, NC 27893  
252-291-2344 • [www.wesleyshelter.org](http://www.wesleyshelter.org)



Despite COVID-19, Wesley Shelter remained operational throughout so that survivors of domestic and sexual violence could receive the essential help they needed.

Since 1983, Wesley Shelter, a United Way Agency, has been serving the Wilson community through its many programs.

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE • ADVOCACY AND LEGAL SERVICES  
HOMELESSNESS • SAFE HOUSE • 24 HOUR CRISIS LINE  
WOMEN'S CENTER • SUPPORT GROUPS • THERAPY  
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We could not do this without the ongoing generous support of the Wilson community.

Your time, goods, services, financial donations and support through United Way enable us to make a difference in the lives of others every single day.



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**THANK YOU to all that help us!** Voted #1 for 2020  
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Honorable Mention Favorite Resale Shop - Furniture & Home Accessories



# Flynn Home

Throughout this past year the Flynn Christian Fellowship Home has had its ups and downs as well as a lot of us in the community. But one thing we tried our best to do was keep the guys safe and still moving forward. We had such a man that did such that. He has recently moved into his own place here in Wilson and still is a part of our lives as well. He had left a letter behind that he had told us about. But asked me to read it later. Well I did and it really told me something, something that put a big smile on my face. He said to use it if could ever help another man see what is offered here.

**Thanks,**  
Flynn Home Director

What do I think of the Flynn Christian Fellowship Home? First of all I think of it as a home, place of security, a group of friends or more like family. This place is like no other place I have been a part of. This is the first place I found sobriety. I wanted a change in my life ... peace; these people made a change in me.

The difference I found at the Flynn Home

was the structure and accountability that exists. Clocks are in the room and set to get us up in the morning. And I mean really get up, ready to pursue schooling, job searching, reading materials suggested and serving others. It is said that Faith without Works is dead. We are taught that it is up to us to take action, action towards our sobriety, action towards the betterment of the house and action to help our community. One of my favorite activities is on Sunday afternoon where the director and I take food donations to a local retirement home. Seeing that most of the year was in a lock-down environment. It was an idea that we all came up with to be of service through this past year. It is amazing to be able to make such a difference in others' lives. To see a spark in another human because of an action I take is a powerful moment.

The contrast between what we have at the Flynn Home and other programs I have been involved with, are that here the Director pushes us. He truly wants us to progress in life, he is concerned with how we will do after we live the program. His encouragement comes from him sharing his story and seeing how far

he has come. That's why I am so compelled to read the materials he reads and follow the suggestions he gives. I watch others, I watch him and realize there is truth to what he says. There is a feeling of unconditional love, family love where everyone has faults but we pull together and make it work. Another thing that works is God's presence. The name goes along with the place and the person directing it.

-Anonymous resident



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Hope abounds as our community emerges from the COVID-19! True to its vision and mission, Hope Station never missed a beat during the pandemic as it maintained its pantry services and kept its two shelters open. Now, Hope Station looks forward to joining with all those who are working to shape a more hope-filled future for those in need.

As part of the community's emergency "essential services" safety net, shutting down was not an option – even as the severity of COVID-19 became obvious. Instead, Hope Station's leadership, staff, and volunteers committed to keeping its mission in focus, even if it meant that the work might look a little different.

## PANTRY SERVICES:

The pantry was quickly transformed from a walk-through client choice pantry to a walk-up and drive-up pantry in which three-days-worth of healthy pre-bagged groceries were given to pantry clients.

In addition, volunteers have delivered pantry groceries to elderly and/or disabled clients for whom transportation to the pantry was a challenge when ride-sharing was discouraged.

The healthy eating program for pantry clients has continued as the Pantry Manager engaged with program participants via telephone to provide encouragement and nutrition education during the lock-down.

## SHELTER AND HOUSING SERVICES:

The shelters have operated safely throughout the pandemic after COVID testing protocols were developed with community health partners. A grant even made it possible to remodel the Men's Shelter for improved social distancing both during the current pandemic and also for future healthy accommodations.

Grants, including United Way COVID emer-

gency funds, have made it possible to provide safe haven in hotel rooms when shelter beds were not available, or when quarantine was needed.

The biggest opportunities have come through federal housing grants that have enabled Hope Station to help persons experiencing homelessness move into sustainable housing, and to help renters avoid evictions. From October 2020 through February 2021, Hope Station worked as a Community Partner for the first HOPE Program and distributed nearly \$400,000 in rent and/or utility assistance for 135 households. An additional million dollar grant will make it possible for Hope Station to continue this eviction prevention and housing work through June 2022. Hope Station's leadership has been grateful for the opportunity to assist persons experiencing housing insecurity while contributing to Wilson's economy.

Moving beyond the pandemic, Hope Station will continue to fulfill its role as a provider of essential services for a community that is hurting more than ever. Working as a United Way Agency and community partner, Hope Station is grateful for the opportunity to work in partnership to share the gift of hope and find new and creative ways to assist those in need.





# The Wilson PAL Athletics and Activities League

The Wilson PAL Athletics and Activities League was significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The biggest impact was not being able to meet with in-person with the youth in our program. However we found ways to overcome the fact that we couldn't meet in-person. Our mentors/officers began meeting with the youth virtually and discussing ways to keep them busy working on different projects. We had them do virtual exercises such as (pushups, sit-ups, jumping-jacks, running in place, etc). We did that as a way to continue working on their physical training, since there would be no sports camps because of Covid. Doing things virtual helped us overcome the challenge of not doing anything at all. It would also help us maintain contact with the youth in our program since again we could not meet in person.

Being able to meet virtually allowed the mentors/officers with PAL continue to think outside of the box as it related to how we

would conduct business for the youth in our program as normal. Although, due to city restrictions, we would not have any of our sports camps or programs in person. Our "Boys to Men" group which consist of young men from the ages of 14-17, was tasked with completing a model car. We purchased all of the materials from Hobby Lobby and dropped them off on the porches of each of the young men in the program. Once the participant had completed the model car, they would call us to come and pick it up. We then chose which participant had the best looking model car and gave that young man a prize.

I am happy to announce that we were able to have a Christmas in the South event like we have had in the past, which also falls under PAL. Again, we had to think outside of the box as there was no way that we could bring more than 700 people from the community together to receive toys for their child. So, after meeting virtually, it was decided

that we would select 100 families to contact and provide Christmas for their families. We used families through Wilson County Schools, DSS, The SPOT, and those that were in our PAL program to provide Christmas gifts too. We would solicit donations to assist us with providing gifts for these families. We would then package gifts according to the number of children in the household and each child would receive his or her own bag filled with toys. We then delivered the gift bags to each of the families within a two day period. This process actually worked out pretty well and each of the families on our list were able to receive their Christmas gifts. More than 300 children were impacted from that process. We received so much support from the community with donations for our Christmas in the South.

We intend this year to start our programs back up in full swing, beginning in the month of August. We are currently planning for our annual PAL Football Camp, Fall



Basketball Camp, Softball Camp, and Baseball Camp. We are also planning to restart our mentoring programs back as well as our Explorers Program.

Without our partnership with the United Way, we would not be able to provide for the many youths in our program, that depend on us to provide not just time with them but also, (food, drinks, clothes, and most of all support).

## Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson and its volunteers did not stop serving the youth during the pandemic!

The pandemic has proven to be a challenging time for all in Wilson County and we at Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson have had to meet this past year head-on and some "Out-of-the-box" ideas.

We are truly blessed to have a great team of staff, volunteers, families and community partners that made it possible for our youth to continue to be served during the past year.

Our major events that families, youth, volunteers and team look forward to each year were cancelled this past year due to the pandemic, especially our Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson Christmas Event. This event is our favorite because we all have dinner, games are played by the families for prizes. These games are not your ordinary games. One game in particular is having a paper plate on top of your head with a marker in your hand and one of our team is calling out what part of the snowman to draw. The results are masterpieces for the families' refrigerators and lasting memories. However, this year's Christmas event was a memory maker, as well. This year's Christmas Event was "The Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson Jingle Jangle Drive-Thru Christmas." Families drove through singing their favorite Christmas song and picked up



their Christmas Goodies. During the Christmas Holiday season, our volunteers and youth met and made Christmas Cards for our community partners, as well as, "Thank you" cards for the "Front Line" Workers during the pandemic.

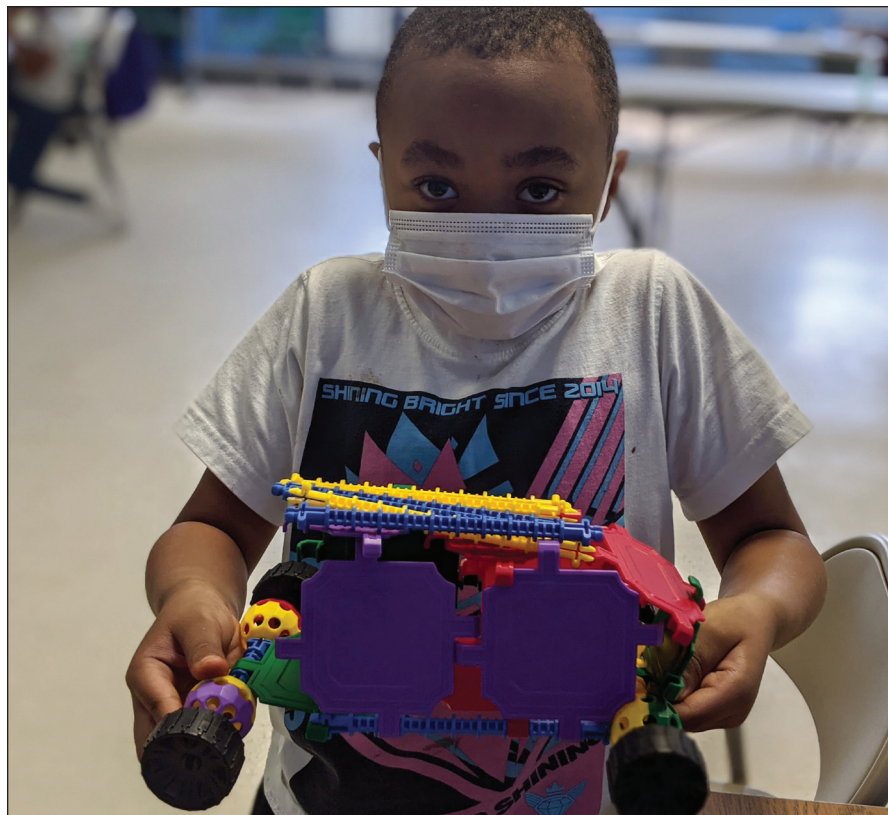
St. Patrick's Day was celebrated this year at our new facility and we were able to meet here with our volunteers and youth. They were able to make slime and other St. Patty Day goodies and enjoy a beautiful day outside and enjoy each other's company. Our team, volunteers,

youth and families came together to make every activity fun and exciting for all the youth, families and volunteers that attended.

Our community partners were instrumental in assisting us in supplies. United Way of Wilson County made sure we had plenty of masks and hand sanitizer, as well as, cleaning supplies for families and other household items for the families. Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson County is grateful to our volunteers, families and community partners for making it possible for us to serve our youth during this pandemic.

Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson County is a REFERRAL ONLY agency that provides prevention and intervention services to youth ages 6 - 17. These services include Mentoring, Community Service/Restitution, and Parent/Youth Prevention Consultations. Referral sources include Division of Juvenile Justice, Department of Social Services, Wilson County Schools, Law Enforcement Agencies, Teen Court and other youth serving agencies. Our mission includes positively developing our youth to be successful youth today and as adults, rehabilitating youth offenders and compensating victims of juvenile crimes.





## A birdseye view of the Save-A-Youth program

COVID-19 challenges stormed in striking modifications and limitations but did not hinder the Save-A-Youth Program and its partners from making an impact on the community and the students. The first spark of creativity at SAY was developed by Sonya Aguwal, a student at Greenfield School. She chose to beautify the SAY site for her senior project. She initiated a Go Fund Me Campaign to enhance the atmosphere for the students at SAY. Opportunities for students to engage in hands-on STEM activities kept them mentally active during their monitoring sessions at SAY.

Christmas was an exciting time for our parents and the students. United Way, Barton College, and the YMCA provided an awesome shopping experience for our parents. Toys, masks, hoola hoops, clothes, cleaning supplies, etc. made the one-day shopping trip for the parents so meaningful and filled the holiday void amid the pan-

demic. The students responded to a charitable call by making Christmas cards for Meals on Wheels. Teaching children to demonstrate their compassion for others during the Christmas season was a valuable lifelong lesson.

Words of praise and encouragement brought the year to a close. Students made great progress despite the challenges of the year long pandemic. Plans are being made to move forward with a STEAMing Zoology Mini-Camp this summer at SAY. Visiting and studying animals through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math will capture the multiple modalities our children possess. Studying and connecting with animals at the zoo can help stimulate learning, encourage nurturing and build self-esteem. Real life experiences will prepare students for returning to the classrooms in the fall after more than a year of pandemic instability.



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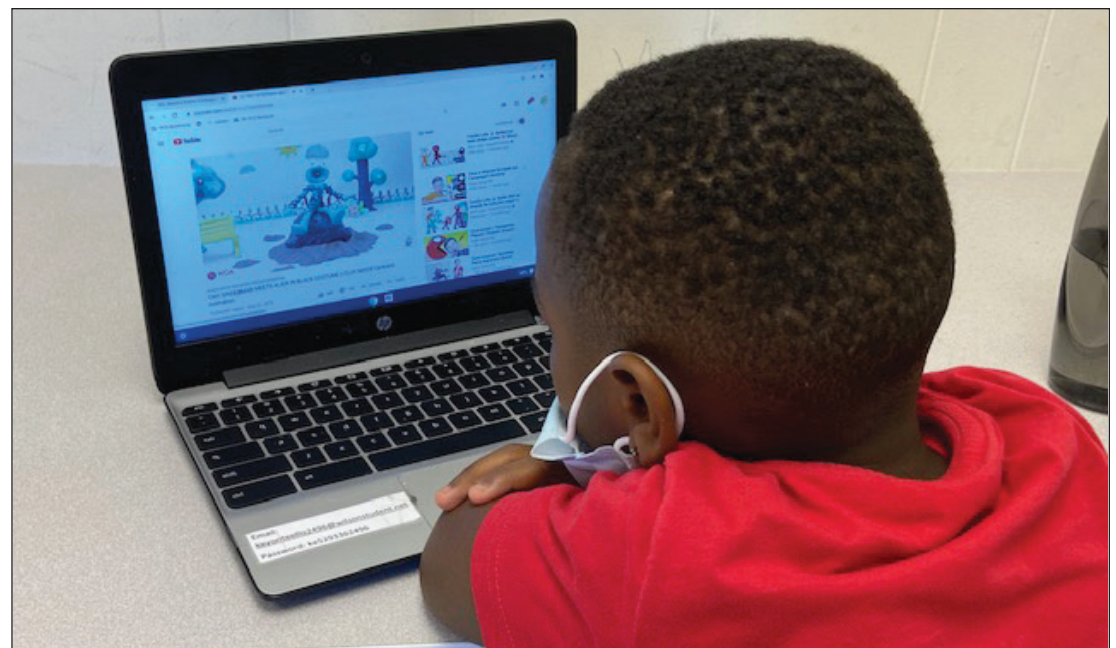
# The SPOT

The SPOT is a proud United Way of Wilson Agency. Our COVID response began on the first day COVID caused Wilson citizens to "Shelter in Place" and our response continues today. School closures placed many Wilson kids into food insecurity status with school breakfast and lunch programs ending overnight. The SPOT opened a drive thru meal service program for all Wilson families serving over 265,000 meals. Our Wilson students were introduced to remote and virtual learning platforms. Parents became teachers, teacher became screen time faces and some students thrived but many struggled. The SPOT took action and opened a "Remote learning Center". This center worked with students during the school day supporting our families. The Remote Learning Center continued throughout the next 10 months serving 160 different families. COVID restrictions led to the operation of two After School program that served over 220 kids. Two program starting at different time maximized our safe service capacity.

Since 2010 the SPOT has served over 2800 different students. 97% of students that attend three or more days each week pass to the next grade. 236 new student were enrolled at the SPOT through the Pandemic. The SPOT began Activity Based Learning in 2014 and success using this curriculum has been tremendous. In 2021 the SPOT will utilize Activity Based Learning, Social & Emotional Learning, Health & Fitness, technology and family enrichment programs in our after school and summer camp programs. Themed "Fill the GAP" (Gaining Academic Proficiency) is our three year plan to help students that have experienced 10-12 months of learning loss overcome this unprecedented obstacle. Summer Camp is offered free to 120 students that show non-proficient in a core subjects.

Social and Emotional learning and wellness have become intentional outcome based programs offered in daily lesson planning. It is our goal to help participants regain their academic confidence, emotional wellness, and enthusiasm for knowledge. STEAM (Science Technology Engineering, Arts, Math) have become daily enrichment activities. In 2020 student learned to scuba dive, water test our streams and oceans, care for environment. In 2021 students will participate in "Try Scuba", Wilson- On- Wheels, Sea Turtle Adventure and Farm-to-Table cooking classes. New in 2021 is our ESPORTS facility by Genia Tyson, Walk in Their Shoes" walking trail with arts exhibits, A natural play space and the return of SPOT Sports.

Registration for all programs can be completed on-line at [thewilsonspot.org](http://thewilsonspot.org).



## WILSON COUNTY OFFICE OF SENIOR CITIZEN AFFAIRS

### 237-1303

Home Delivered Meals • Congregate Meals  
General Transportation • Information & Referral

*Wilson Focal Point On Aging*

  
**The Arc**<sup>TM</sup>

### 237-8266

[director@arcofwilsonnc.org](mailto:director@arcofwilsonnc.org)

The Arc of Wilson County works to promote and support all activities in Wilson County that benefit the lives of citizens with developmental disabilities living in the community. The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

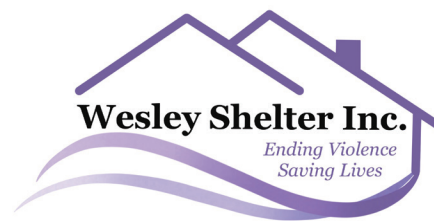


# Wesley Shelter Inc.

The year of 2020 will long be remembered! The pandemic created a challenge for all of us and Wesley Shelter was no exception. Through committed leadership and staff, we adapted and met the challenge head on. Victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence have many barriers to leaving abusive relationships. COVID-19 presented another set of barriers and we at Wesley Shelter did not want anyone to feel forced to stay in an abusive relationship or unsafe environment. We viewed our services as essential to survival.

The 24-hour crisis line and safe house remained operational throughout the pandemic. The safe house operation adjusted so that fewer people were sheltered due to social distancing requirement. During the Stay at Home Order, we saw a decline in the number of people requesting shelter, we believe out of fear of the virus and communal living. But some still did need safe shelter. We provided protective masks, sanitizers and cleaners and worked diligently to maintain safety from the virus. We also repaired the garage apartment so that additional shelter space was available or an area for quarantine if needed. Fortunately, everyone cooperated and made it work. Staff continued to show up for work despite their own fears of the virus, especially when we were first learning about COVID-19. Through CARES Funding, we were able to purchase new furniture and mattresses to replace cloth furniture for the safe house that could be wiped clean. No-touch bathroom and kitchen fixtures were installed.

We had a victim advocate on call at all times during the Stay at Home Order and adjusted to the court schedule to help clients secure the Temporary Restraining Orders and ultimately, the Domestic Violence Protection Orders. We created the Team A/Team B approach so that a group would be present to provide direct services while the second team worked remotely. We switched out each week for safety ensuring a back-up if someone was exposed. Everyone wore masks, social distanced and sanitized daily. CARES Funding also allowed additional purchases of partitions, screens, hand sanitizing stations, no-touch fixtures to prevent



the spread of the virus and protect staff and clients.

Legal and therapy services were offered remotely through secure Internet platforms. Clients were still able to receive the much needed services. We did curtail in-person group sessions, classes and educational presentations but later reinstated them through ZOOM or Microsoft Teams. Staff were able to use these methods for their individual training requirement and staff meetings. Board meetings were conducted with ZOOM and had almost 100% participation through the convenience of meeting virtually. In-person sexual assault response to the Medical Center was curtailed due to the visiting restrictions but we did maintain someone at all times to provide telephone support and advocacy.

The Clothes Line was closed for seven weeks which was a tremendous loss of revenue. Donors saved their goods until the store reopened and business resumed at record breaking numbers. We are grateful for that support!

Throughout the pandemic, despite the challenges for many in the community, Wesley Shelter has seen an outpouring of love and support. We faced other challenges during the year such as basement flooding, electrical damage/shutdown, water damage and vandalism at the safe house that required relocation of clients. All of this was extremely costly but our community helped us through their generous financial gifts, donated goods and supplies. Our United Way has been present throughout and offered help in various ways, too.

As soon as it was safely possible, we returned staff to serve together. It has been uplifting to return to some sense of normalcy. We are here, ready to serve. Wesley Shelter is a proud United Way Agency!



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**DONATE!**

We accept furniture, appliances, building materials, cabinets, electronics, light fixtures, tools & other household items (no clothing please). Call 252-234-0009 for pickup of large items.

Wilson Area Habitat for Humanity is a designation-only agency. You must designate WAHFH if you want your donation to go to Habitat.





# Wilson County Office of Senior Citizens Affairs

Since 1981, the Wilson County Office of Senior Citizens Affairs office has served over 2,308,610 meals to clients in the city of Wilson and the county. We serve 350 to 375 nutritious meals a day, out of several sites located all over Wilson County. We have the main site in the city of Wilson, and then have Stantonsburg, Elm City and Lucama drop off sites, three rural routes that go all over the county, and a box meal program that provides 138 meals at once to last the whole month. We also have four congregate sites that feed seniors and disabled adults at Stantonsburg, Elm City, Lucama and Golden Leaf Apartments. Of course, none of this would be happening without the support of the United Way funds. We did not shut down any of our programs with the pandemic even though a lot of the meals on wheels went to serving frozen meals once a week or two times a month. We knew during the pandemic our clients wouldn't have as much help getting groceries, so with the help from a lot of the churches finding us volunteers and our regular volunteers we have been able to serve extra box meals to our clients to make sure they had enough food for the month. We had a no contact pol-



icy in place for delivering meals. The clients would have a table or chair on their porch or inside the door, so they could get their meal,

but would not have physical contact with the volunteer. There was a lot of talking going on through the doors making sure the clients were O.K. Even though our congregate sites stayed open, a lot of our seniors, because of health reasons, were unable to come to the site. With this in mind, we ordered box meals for all of them, and they would come by and pick them up outside the site without ever getting out of the car. We were able to supply our clients with the extra food boxes through the United Way covid funds, grants from Meals on Wheels America, Meals on Wheels NC and the Novartis grant that helped start the new route in the county. We have a lot more congregate clients coming back to the sites to eat now. We are adding meals on wheels clients all the time. We also work very closely with the Wilson Crisis Center, getting extra help for our clients that need it! We can always use new volunteers. A lot of our volunteers are Truist employees that are working from home now and do not live in Wilson and some of the companies that were letting their employees volunteer are not allowing it now with the pandemic. If you are interested in volunteering please call 237-7623.



*Thank you,*  
**UNITED WAY**  
of Wilson County!

Hope Station is proud to be a member of the United Way, and grateful to share in partnership to serve those in need:

- Families and single men experiencing homelessness
- Families needing food
- Persons struggling in a financial emergency

**Wilson County Interfaith Services, Inc dba HOPE STATION**

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[www.facebook.com/hopestationwilson.org](https://www.facebook.com/hopestationwilson.org)





# Wilson Crisis Center

Donations to the United Way of Wilson County directly support the Wilson Crisis Center's mission "To Extend a Helping Hand to Those in Need...24 Hours a Day...Every Day." With live, trained and compassionate call specialists who have access to a network of local resources and non-local resources as well as services in other areas, we have been accomplishing our mission since 1971. The Crisis Center is a hands-on agency and is available for all persons 24/7. We are continuously updating resources, referrals, support meetings, medical assistance, food pantries and help when the need is there. We also assist in person if needed.

Starting in 2020, the Wilson Crisis Center has seen a twofold increase in the number and length of calls we are receiving. Since the COVID-19 pandemic started in March 2020, the center has received over 140 calls per day with numbers steadily increasing. Our team of more than 100+ volunteers per week provide 24/7 live telephone assistance to callers needing information, referrals, someone to listen and the knowledge that someone cares. Our "Hello Calls" and "MedCalls" programs provide services to over 1400+ persons EVERY DAY, reassuring them someone cares, and is listening to their concerns, needs and fears. Mental health emergencies, suicides, rape, domestic violence, homelessness, medical needs, food needs, utility needs, rental assistance and other critical needs are handled by the center. The calls and people coming to our center have increased steadily as the pandemic continues. Food needs have increased and we have enhanced our Food Pantry with an assortment of nutritious foods and deliver if needed, wearing masks and gloves to protect everyone. We have updates on availability of vaccines and transportation and provide clients with contacts and referrals to other agencies and resources. Our center also maintains updated information on support meeting schedules for Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, grief support, substance abuse, food pantries and additional resources. For those needing access to these meetings, whether in person or virtual, we provide transportation or access to a computer.

Your donations to United Way made the following services and programs possible at the Wilson Crisis Center in 2020:

Incoming calls totaled 50,400 (4,200+ each month.) The calls consisted of a variety of needs, referrals, resources, etc. pertaining to health, income and education.

Our Emergency Food Pantry assisted 3,500 + with nutritious food (we deliver when there are



transportation needs).

We provided more than 900+ nights of shelter for homeless families or individuals during 2020.

Our financial assistance was also utilized to help 450+ individuals/families to pay rent so they could keep their homes and not be homeless.

Assisted 500+ with utilities so they could remain in their homes with electricity and water.

Made contacts to resources to help individuals/families when they were available.

Called 1400+ senior citizens or disabled DAILY, meaning that over 511,000 outgoing calls were made last year to reassure those called were safe, had eaten, taken medicines, insulin, weighed, etc. These calls made it possible for our clients to stay in their homes which promoted longevity and peace of mind. We are their "Security Blanket." We work very closely with Wilson County Office of Senior Citizen Affairs trying to make sure the seniors in Wilson County are looked after the way they should be 24/7!

Made home visits and shared "Air Hugs" from a safe distance. Masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers are used to keep our clients and volunteers safe.

Our Teen Help Line provided assistance to 7,000+ callers with teen volunteers assisting in the center and with special projects such as "Wish Bags" filled with hygiene items, cleaning products, pillows, sheets, towels, washcloths,

paper products, etc. Because of your donations to the United Way, we are able to deliver cleaning items and hygiene items to promote healthy habits and positive self-esteem. These needs have increased during this time of the Corona virus, with numerous daily requests.

The 24-hour Spanish Information hotline answered over 3000+ calls in 2020, sharing information on support groups, food pantries and many other additional resources. Several volunteers visited churches and group meetings to share information about our available programs and services.

Because of your donations, the Wilson Crisis Center can continuously provide assistance in the Wilson community with numerous services and projects to enhance our community in positive ways! We know Wilson and Wilson County, which is crucial to providing proper and reliable services. We do not enable but rather lift individuals up so they can attain a better quality of life and achieve their goals.

You, as a supporter of the United Way of Wilson, make all of this possible. During these difficult times, we are spreading the messages of HOPE and UNITY. We were unable to have the Sr.-Sr. Prom in 2021 but the joy and memories embedded from the previous years have kept so many of our seniors and disabled individuals joyful and positive. Many have called and shared their feelings and gratitude for this treasure. We are looking forward to the eighth Sr.-Sr. Prom in 2022!

**WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF YOU AND ARE SENDING HUGS TO OUR WILSON COMMUNITY!**

# Strong as a Diamond



For 60 years, the City of Wilson has partnered with the United Way of Wilson County. Our employees are dedicated to a stronger, healthier, better community. We see the impact that United Way agencies make here. We want to be a part of that.

Every year we run one of the largest campaigns in the Wilson County. We are proud to have won the Nancy Sallenger Spirit Award several times, including 2020. We also won the Spirit Award from the United Way of North Carolina in each of the last two years.

We also support United Way and its agencies with volunteers and loaned executives on their boards and committees, including Deputy Manager Harry Tyson,

serving as the 2021 board president and Police Chief Scott Biddle and Transportation Manager Gronna Jones as 2021 board members.

2020 was a challenging year, given the COVID pandemic making it impossible to even have departmental meetings, but city employees still donated a final pledge amount of \$125,048, the second-best year in city history! It was the sixth straight year that we have topped \$100,000 and we were only slightly behind our record year in 2019.

We look forward to continuing these streaks in 2021 as we move into a more normal campaign and celebrate our Diamond anniversary as a United Way company.



**We support United Way;  
United Way supports Wilson.**

