

UNITED IS THE WAY



**GIVE TODAY
IMPACT TOMORROW**

**United
Way**



**United Way
of Wilson County**

2024 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As United Way of Wilson County celebrates 65 years of serving our community we first and foremost thank you, our generous donors, volunteers, leaders, and nonprofit partners. Our United Way would not exist if it were not for your constant support and passion for strengthening our community. We are proud of the work we have done together to change lives for the better for so many.

Reflecting on the years that the United Way of Wilson County has served our community; we are filled with gratitude and pride for the strides we have made together. Your unwavering support has enabled us to address critical issues, support our Partner and Designation-Only Agencies, and improve the lives

of many. Here are some highlights from the past year:

Community Impact and Key Achievements

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN NEED:

- We provided essential resources and support to families, helping them navigate financial hardships, access food, and secure safe shelter.
- Our partnership with our food pantries and shelters ensured that those facing hunger and homelessness received the assistance they needed.
- Homebound senior citizens had a friendly visit with volunteers who provided warm and healthy meals.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS:

- We invested in educational initiatives, benefiting students through after-school programs, tutoring, and mentorship opportunities.
- Our focus on early childhood education has helped prepare young children for school success, setting a strong foundation for their futures.

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT:

- Our volunteers contributed hundreds of hours of service, supporting various community projects and initiatives, working with children, seniors, individuals with intellectual and/

or physical disabilities and serving on nonprofit committees and boards.

- From organizing food drives to mentoring youth, our volunteers played a crucial role in our mission to uplift and strengthen the community.

Looking Ahead

ISSUE-FOCUSED TRANSITION:

This year you provided us with vital information through surveys, interviews and conversations on community issues that were most meaningful to you. With your insight and support, we are better equipped to tackle the critical issues that matter to our community, ensuring that our ef-

forts have the greatest possible impact.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of improving lives and building a stronger community in Wilson County. The support of our donors, volunteers, partners, and community members is more important than ever as we navigate new challenges and opportunities.

We are excited to continue our journey with you, focusing on the most pressing issues and ensuring that every contribution makes a meaningful impact. Together, we can build a brighter, more resilient future for all.

With Sincere Gratitude and Appreciation,

Your United Way of Wilson County
Executive Director – Judi Thurston

Give Today, Impact Tomorrow

Send check to:

United Way of Wilson County, Inc.
PO Box 1147
Wilson, NC 27894

Online giving:

www.unitedwayofwilson.org/donate

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UNITED WAY OF WILSON COUNTY

HISTORY OF THE UNITED WAY OF WILSON COUNTY

The United Way of Wilson County has a rich history spanning over 65 years. It began as an annual initiative called the 'United Fund' and has since evolved into a powerful force for good, raising more than \$47 million and positively impacting countless lives since its inception in 1959. The organization's journey started with a group of enthusiastic Wilsonians who gathered at the iconic Cherry Hotel, under the leadership of Charles Fleming, then president of the Kiwanis Club.

The United Fund was brought together by local Wilson community leaders who handled the legal process to form the fund, track down a home for the United Fund, slated officers, and ran its first campaign.

Today, we are proud to support 11 partner agencies: American Red Cross, The Arc of Wilson County, Diversified Opportunities, Inc., Flynn Christian Fellowship Home, Hope Station, Meals on Wheels Wilson County, P.A.L., The SPOT, Wesley Shelter, Wilson Crisis Center, and Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson. Donors may also

choose to give to our designation only partners including; Boy Scouts, East Carolina Council, Carolina Family Health Centers, Children's Home Society, Fight For Me Foundation, Foundation YMCA of Wilson, Girl Scouts, NC Coastal Pines, Wilson Area Habitat for Humanity, Imagination Station, OIC of Wilson, Save-a-Youth, Wilson Special Olympics, and Wilson County Partnership for Children. We are extremely proud of all of these agencies and the amazing impact they have in our community every single day.

Your United Way has found its home at 219-A Barnes Street South in the heart of downtown Wilson. With the help of many volunteers we were moved out of our home on Nash Street to our current space. We are grateful for all the assistance we have received over the years and could not have done it without your support and generosity. Our new downtown location allows us to create more personal relationships and collaborations with our partner agencies.



Contributed photo

FLYNN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP HOME

We repurposed our Parkway home, which was so generously donated, to a 3/4 House, to meet the needs of our population. This change allows a step down from the necessary social environment and routine of the Goldsboro Street house to a less restrictive and more independent living with more freedoms, but greater responsibilities. Men who have been able to succeed in the Goldsboro Street house will be given the opportunity to step down and still retain the structured environment and program that has been influential in their personal success.

Two men took on this task, and became our co-pilots in this venture. By doing so, two other men can step up into new roles, in place of those who are departing for the Three-Quarter House. We have men in leadership roles moving on and others stepping up to new leadership roles. We are seeing personal relationships develop and flourish and men committed to hard work and jobs in the community. We are seeing families reunited and social privileges return with hard work and commitment.

We have men getting their degrees while working the 12 steps of the program looking forward to a better tomorrow. Most importantly, we are seeing a community of sobriety develop, build and inspire others to do the same through the hard work of those who have come before ... and for all of this we want to say:

*“Thank you to the United Way
of Wilson County and our community.”*

BETTY BAKER WORK ANNIVERSARY



In June, we celebrated a truly remarkable milestone - Betty Baker's 55-year anniversary with the United Way of Wilson County. This extraordinary achievement is not just a testament to her dedication and hard work, but a reflection of her profound impact on our organization and the community we serve. Betty has touched the lives of many through her unwavering commitment, and consistently exemplified our core values and mission. To honor her milestone, United Way Worldwide President, Angela Williams, wrote a letter to Betty in recognition of her 5.5 decades of service. Contributed photo

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WILSON COUNTY

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Visit linktr.ee/mowwilson to donate or find more info.

Your United Way dollars help DOI provide job placement and training services to those with disabilities in our community.
Thank you for your support!



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DIVERSIFIED OPPORTUNITIES, INC

For 44 years, the funding provided by United Way of Wilson donors has helped pave the way for Diversified Opportunities, Inc. (DOI) to open doors for individuals with disabilities or disadvantaged circumstances and has enhanced the workforce of the companies that employ them. Our United Way partnership goes to the very heart of what DOI does for the community by helping sponsor its programs that offer life skills training and job placement.

Arnesha is a long-time participant of DOI's day program and training center. While she previously worked in an in-house frame shop, Arnesha transitioned to the local hospitality industry as she landed a job on the janitorial staff at a Chili's restaurant in February of 2023. Arnesha said she received training on "how to take out the trash, clean the tables and sweep the floor" from the DOI Day Program Coordinator, Susan Everett. Employment Specialist, Renee Bowie also worked with her as a job coach on those same tasks along with her additional responsibilities at the Chili's restaurant.

"She will do whatever you ask of her." Renee said. "The manager loves her. He said he wished he had a whole building full of Arneshas!"

Ron Rodringo, the Chili's manager, listed some of her positive attributes as an employee.

"She's always on time, she's quiet, never in a bad mood. She learns fast." He said. Arnesha is a great part of the team. "Yes, everybody likes her," Ron said. "Everybody helps her out; she talks to everybody. She knows everybody; everybody knows her."



"Arnesha's insistence on doing a task to completion has served her well and has given her more confidence," Renee said. "She was a little shy early on, but now she freely engages with the other members of the Chili's team!"

Arnesha looks forward to coming to work each day, mainly because of her co-workers. She continues to train at DOI and help

uplift that community as well because, as Arnesha pointed out, she would not have been able to get a job at a place like Chili's without her training from Diversified Opportunities. Likewise, Chili's would not have gotten a worker like Arnesha without DOI, to which Rodringo says he will not hesitate to look to for help again. "Yes, most definitely!" he assured.

THE ARC



The Arc of Wilson County is a small chapter of The Arc of North Carolina and The Arc of The United States. since 1971, serving citizens of all ages in Wilson County (and surrounding area) with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). We are a partner agency of the United Way of Wilson County. At the helm is executive director, Keri Graven and director of operations, Jeanne Cud-dington. This 2-woman crew provides quality programming and opportunities to our I/DD participants ranging in ages from 0 to 99, such as Camp Sunshine, quarterly dances, life skills opportunities and many more through our partnerships, including but not limited to Wilson Parks and Rec, Wilson County Public Library, Wilson Arts Council, Diversified Opportunities and others.

Camp Sunshine is our biggest program for our school aged I/DD participants. Our participants enjoy a 4-week summer day camp in a way similar to their neurotypical peers in that we go swimming, play, and enjoy adventures that have the kids moving and exploring. However,

we do so on a level that meets the needs of our participants. We provide opportunities to promote inclusion through our interactive playgroup programs, partnership with Wilson Parks and Rec. It is offered to all children between the ages of 0-5 years old and for our adults, we provide life skills and social events throughout the year.

We are excited to announce we have additional programs rolling out in the fall and winter to create even more opportunities such as our lending library for our adult groups at Diversified Opportunities and bringing back our Hope Singers program in time for an amazing Christmas concert. We will be hosting additional family nights for our school-aged kids, as well. Our mission and our goal at The Arc of Wilson County is to create opportunities and build relationships within the I/DD. We are able to do so through support from the United Way of Wilson County, private donations, grants and fundraisers, like the 9th Annual The Arc of Wilson County Gobble Wobble.



The Arc of Wilson County works to promote and support all activities in Wilson County that benefit the lives of citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) 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.

252-237-8266
director@arcofwilsonnc.org

**United
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HOPE STATION

Hope Station is a hub of support for families in crisis through food, shelter, housing assistance, and financial assistance. We are a partner agency of the United Way of Wilson County and we are grateful for their many years of support for our mission. Life changing events, such as Henry's story below, are made possible because of your donations to the United Way of Wilson County.

Henry Gordon languished in the streets of downtown Wilson a mere year ago. He suffered from poor health, pervasive alcohol abuse, and the recent traumatic onset of homelessness. Henry occasionally indulged in alcoholic beverages to celebrate momentous life events. Yet it was not long before he started turning to alcohol to ease the daily pressure of being the family's sole breadwinner and a caregiver to his disabled wife. He started consuming several drinks every day, sometimes he would drink so late into the evening that he would show up drunk to work the next day. Henry spent

years chasing employment opportunities, taking laborious jobs and barely getting by. Inebriated much of the time, Henry felt downtrodden and barely recognizable to himself.

Henry stopped working and cut off all friends and kinship ties. He stopped showing up for appointments and paying his monthly bills. In January of 2023, Henry was evicted from his rental residence of 17 years. Without family or friends to rely on, he turned to Hope Station for refuge. Henry told us that he felt broken – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Alcoholism impacted every facet of his life. After immediately welcoming him into the Agency's emergency shelter, the social worker shared the sentiment that 'there is a crack in everything; that's how the light gets in.' Humans are inarguably imperfect. We recognize that only God is perfect and only he is whole; yet we are all parts of that whole. Henry was ready to acknowledge his cracks, embrace vulnerability,

and let the light in.

The social workers met with Henry frequently to identify his barriers, and set goals. Staff located convenient Alcoholic Anonymous meeting places and times and Henry embarked on his sobriety journey. Henry leaned into the guidance of our staff, requesting regular contact to discuss the dissolution of his personal relationships and the greater sense of isolation he experienced. We aided him in fostering a sense of community and belonging by supporting his desire to find a local church and reserving an imperative role in our agency's local food pantry operation. For the first time in a long time, he said that he felt like he was on the inside rather than looking in from the outside.

Our team also attended to his financial situation in the way of securing Social Security disability benefits, as well as food stamps. Repayment agreements were executed with all of Henry's debtors, including substantial rental arrears to his previous landlord. Now, with excitement in his heart, Henry set about his housing search. He accepted

that his options were limited with regard to his capped income. The social worker reached out to the local housing authority on Henry's behalf and successfully made a plea for a housing voucher. Henry's determination coupled with Hope Station's tenacity secured him a lovely two-bedroom apartment of his dreams.

Henry has overcome what was seemingly impossible. He stands proud to courageously share his tale. Despite his debt feeling insurmountable, Henry faithfully made monthly payments and is now proudly debt-free. He navigated difficult conversations with newfound grace over a period of several months, which resulted in a repaired relationship with his ex-wife, and a long-desired relationship with his son, Henry Junior. To Hope Station's extreme delight, Henry kindly volunteers time working in our local food pantry. Flourishing in his new abode and with a new lease on life, Henry is healthy and happy, and gives back to his community in ways that would have been difficult to imagine just a year ago.



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

309 Goldsboro Street East · Wilson, NC 27893

P.O. Box 2164 · Wilson, NC 27894-2164

252.291.7278 | contact@hs-wilson.org | www.hopestation-wilson.org
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THE SPOT

The SPOT, A United Way of Wilson agency since 2011, is a vibrant youth program committed to serving the needs of kids in Wilson; The staff is a dedicated team of diverse individuals with unique skills. Our approach to sustainable success is our ability to stretch every United Way donation received. Donations are the key ingredient to profoundly impacting the lives of our participants. Our mission is to foster growth, prevent food insecurity, and provide essential services, not just for our programs but for other United Way agencies like The ARC of Wilson and Hope Station.

Food Insecurity negatively impacts our kids, families and community. Our United Way funds are sometimes used to ensure

that no child will go to bed hungry. By establishing a community garden, the SPOT has engaged youth and families in how to grow their own food, instilling valuable life skills while addressing food insecurity head-on. These extra food items are placed in a blessing box, given to families and other organizations with a focus to end hunger in Wilson County.

Transportation is another critical element that The SPOT prioritized with our United Way donations in 2023-24. Without safe and free access to shuttles and buses, the educational and extracurricular activities participation would miss the mark and our program's impact would be minimized. Stretching your United Way donation to maximize its impact is our goal. Your donation to

the United Way of Wilson County impacts our kids and other community needs through our United Way partnerships. The SPOT's commitment to community extends beyond our immediate circle. We actively support other United Way agencies like The ARC of Wilson and the Hope Station by sharing resources, transportation, food, knowledge, and supplies. The idea of "Pay it Forward" best describes our goal to serve others. The ARC of Wilson, which is focused on advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the Hope Station, which provides emergency assistance and supportive services, both benefit from The SPOT's outreach just as we too benefit from their support.

Together, our organizations create a robust network of support, uplifting the entire community and exemplifying the power of unity and collaboration.

Matt Edwards, The SPOT's CEO said, "The SPOT's unwavering dedication and innovative approach transforms every donation into a lifeline for countless individuals. This story is a testament to the incredible impact that a group of passionate individuals has made when they work together for a common cause in this community, The SPOT is not just a place; it serves as a symbol of hope, resilience, and the boundless potential of human kindness needed in the world today".



PAL



The Wilson Police Department's Police Athletic/Activities League is a proud partner agency of the United Way of Wilson County. We host a variety of youth-related sports camps, youth-based activities, and youth-based enrichment programs in our community. All of these programs offer specific sporting skills and allow our officers, coaches, and employees to mentor and offer life skills essential to a youth's survival during uncertain times. We believe this positive contact has not only built long-lasting relationships with officers and the youth, we believe we can show it has played a significant role in the reduction of our crime rate. WPD PAL hosted several summer camps including Football/Cheerleading, Baseball, Softball, and Soccer camp. The camps were held at Frederick Douglass Elementary School and Gillette Soccer Complex. Several volunteers within the agency, along with local coaches, helped make each camp a success. The program had the opportunity to be a part of over 121 male and female lives during these camps.. Contributed photo

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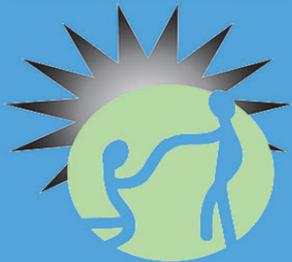
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CELEBRATING 52 YEARS



**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

WILSON CRISIS CENTER

The Wilson Crisis Center has been a United Way partner agency for as long as it has been open, forming a partnership that creates positive changes for those who need assistance in the Wilson community. The Crisis Center constantly sees positive results with its relationships developed within the Wilson community, and not only with the people they assist, but also their volunteers.

“Good morning, the Wilson Crisis Center! My name is Debbie, may I help you please?” The call comes in on a Saturday at 2:20 a.m. The caller is a mother with three children – 7, 5, and 2 years old. She is crying and hard to understand but Debbie listens and offers comfort and encouraging words. The mother states her situation and Debbie can share assistance. The mother and the three children were staying with her boyfriend and an argument erupted. The boyfriend told her to leave and take the children. “Do not come back!” he shouted. It is raining and very humid, which affects the 2-year-old who has breathing problems. They have no clothes, food, or hygiene supplies. Debbie calls the Crisis Center’s Executive Director, Nancy and together they form a plan of action. Nancy contacts a motel to arrange for a short-term stay. She and another volunteer pick up the family as well as food, clothing, and hygiene items from the Crisis Center’s emergency supplies. After checking the

IMPACT: The Wilson Crisis Center answered over 40,500 phone calls during the past twelve months and placed wellness check phone calls to over 1,400 senior, disabled and challenged individuals every day, totaling 511,000 outgoing calls. The Senior-Senior Prom celebrated its 10th year in 2024, bringing 500+ seniors and 170 teens together.

family into a motel, Nancy assures the mother she will be back in the morning to discuss their next steps. The mother and children surround Nancy and her volunteer with lots of hugs and tears. At 8 a.m. the next day, Nancy arrives to outline a plan to find safe shelter for the family. The Crisis Center can serve this community because of the support of the United Way of Wilson.

One of the senior citizens, Mrs. W, who receives daily calls from the Crisis Center’s MedCall program lives by herself and has requested that the Crisis Center contact her if they have someone in need of shelter. Nancy took the woman who lost her housing to meet Mrs. W after a phone call to verify that she was still offering her home. The conversation went well and Ms. W is excited to have guests in her home. The Crisis Center checks on the family and Ms. W each week to be sure



The Wilson Crisis Center’s 10th Annual Senior-Senior Prom brought together over 500 seniors and 170 volunteers for a night of food, music, dance and camaraderie. Contributed photo

things are going well. One of the Crisis Center's volunteers helped the mother find a job to help with living expenses. The Crisis Center will continue to stay in touch and assist with other resources and needs as they arise. The mother is so grateful that the Crisis Center was there in real time to help her family in their time of need. The Crisis Center serves our community 24/7, knows Wilson inside and out, and has valuable up-to-date resources that are vital to lifting up Wilson Citizens to a better life during times of loneliness and homelessness; people with medical, food, and mental health needs; and those

with substance abuse issues.

The Wilson Crisis Center serves the citizens of Wilson 24/7 with volunteers who have vast knowledge of resources, referrals, and support groups. The Crisis Center's mission statement is "Extending a Helping Hand to Those in Need...24 Hours a Day...Every Day." The key word when Wilson Crisis Center staff and volunteers talk to someone in person and on the phone is "LISTEN."

The Wilson Crisis Center invites everyone to help them celebrate 52 years of providing vital services to the Wilson community!



Children and volunteers in a local Bible school color "Jesus Loves Me" pictures to be inserted into personal care bags that are delivered to Wilson citizens in need by Wilson Crisis Center volunteers.

Contributed photo

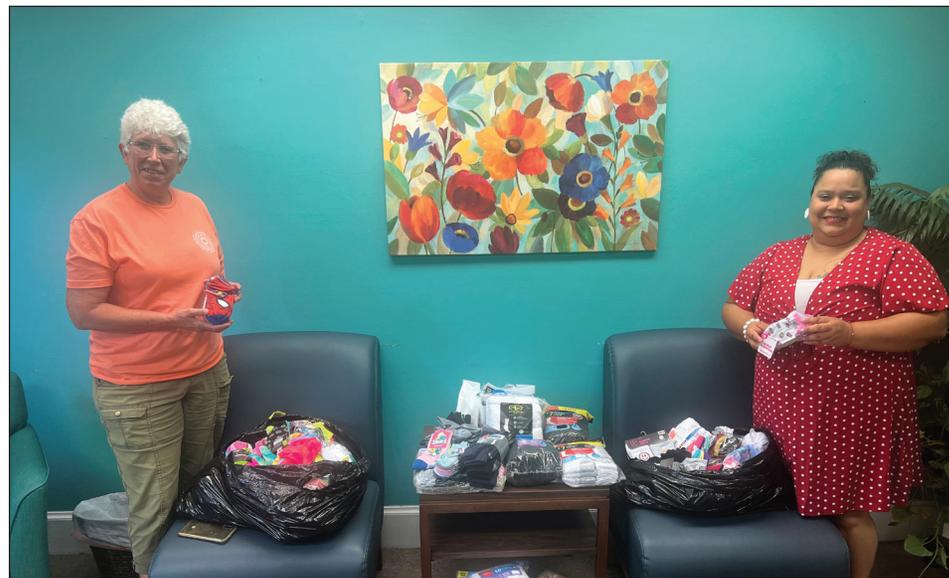
WESLEY SHELTER

In the heart of Wilson, North Carolina, Wesley Shelter stands as a beacon of hope and resilience for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence, as well as human trafficking. For over 40 plus years, we have tirelessly provided essential services to those in crisis, offering a safe haven, advocacy, and the tools necessary for victims and survivors to rebuild their lives. However, in recent times, the challenges have grown more formidable as funding sources have dwindled. Yet, amidst these financial constraints, the unwavering support of being a United Way of Wilson County agency and the commitment of our community continues to fuel our mission and inspire our efforts.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WESLEY SHELTER'S WORK

Domestic and sexual violence, along with human trafficking, are pervasive issues that affect individuals and families across all demographics. Wesley Shelter's comprehensive services include emergency shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, legal advocacy, and educational outreach. These programs are crucial in addressing the immediate and long-term needs of victims and survivors, helping them navigate the complex and often traumatic path toward healing and independence.

Our dedicated professionals and volunteers work around the clock to ensure every victim and survivor receives the support and care they need. From providing a safe place to stay to offering



legal assistance and therapeutic counseling, Wesley Shelter is a lifeline for those with nowhere else to turn.

FUNDING CHALLENGES

Despite the undeniable importance of our work, securing consistent funding has become increasingly challenging. Grants and donations that once formed the backbone of our financial stability have been reduced or redirected, leaving a significant gap in our budget. These economic constraints threaten our ability to maintain the full spectrum of services that our clients rely on. The urgency of this situation cannot be overstated and is a reflection of broader economic chal-

lenges and shifting priorities at the state and federal levels. This has made it more difficult to access the resources necessary to support our programs and meet the growing needs of our community.

THE COMMUNITY'S UNWAVERING SUPPORT

Amidst these challenges, one constant remains: the unwavering support of the Wilson community and the United Way of Wilson County. The people of Wilson have always shown remarkable solidarity with our mission, stepping up in countless ways to ensure we can continue serving those in need. Local businesses, civic organizations, faith communities, and individual donors

have all played a crucial role in sustaining our work.

Fundraising events, donation drives, and volunteer efforts have all contributed to keeping our doors open. The community's generosity has not only provided essential support but also sent a powerful message of hope and resilience to victims and survivors. Knowing that they have a network of support behind them can make a world of difference for those in crisis. Your support is not just appreciated, it is integral to our cause.

MOVING FORWARD

While the challenges we face are significant, Wesley Shelter remains steadfast in our commitment to serve and support victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking. We actively seek new funding opportunities, build partnerships, and innovate our programs to ensure sustainability.

Our work is far from done, and with the continued support of our community, we are confident that we can overcome these obstacles. Together, we can ensure that Wesley Shelter remains a place of refuge and hope for all who need it. Your support is not just a contribution, it is a lifeline for those in crisis.

In these times of uncertainty, our community's strength and compassion shine brightly. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support that makes our work possible. As we navigate these challenges, we invite everyone to join us in sustaining hope and making a lasting difference in the lives of survivors.

MEALS ON WHEELS WILSON COUNTY

Frances Holland, aged 94, maintains a more active lifestyle than many of her peers. She enjoys a vibrant social life with her neighbors, friends, church community, and family. Despite her ability to stay socially engaged and mobile, she has experienced challenges in cooking and meal preparation and no longer drives as she has aged. Ann Little, a volunteer at the Lucama Congregate Nutrition Site, approached Frances with the option of receiving support from Meals on Wheels. This service was a new concept for Frances, but she found the program appealing right from the start. The United Way of Wilson

County provides crucial funding to support Meals on Wheels Wilson County's mission, which benefits approximately 250 adults monthly. By contributing to The United Way of Wilson, you can assist Meals on Wheels Wilson County in broadening its services to aid residents who require nutritional support.

When asked how her experience with Meals on Wheels Wilson County has been, Frances replied, "Oh my. I certainly would hope to not have to give it up. It has been a blessing to me." Frances is so thankful to receive these meals that are healthy for her, even the ones that might not be her favorite.

Most days, she eats the entire meal and other days, she's able to save some for another day. However, Meals on Wheels Wilson County delivers more than just a meal, Frances has nearly memorized the schedule of the volunteers who deliver her meals. She loves to see the volunteers every day and is able to catch up and have a quick chat with them while the volunteers visit with her. As mentioned, Frances maintains a healthy social life but on days when she doesn't have contact with anyone else, she says the volunteers add a sparkle to her day.

Frances continues to reside in the house she and her late

husband built back in 1961. This home holds a special place in her heart as it is where she raised her daughter and shared countless memories with her family. Frances said, "if I had to leave my home, it would break my heart. It really would." The support from Meals on Wheels enables Frances to stay in her home and sustain her independence for as long as possible. Fortunately, Frances has her daughter in Wilson and they have explored the option of Frances moving in with her if the need arises, as both are keen on avoiding Frances having to relocate to an assisted living facility. Frances' story is similar to

that of many clients of Meals on Wheels Wilson County and countless aging individuals across America. This includes home-delivered meals on weekdays, four Congregate Nutrition Sites for seniors who can dine in, and monthly meal boxes delivered to clients' homes.

Frances summed up her experience with Meals on Wheels of Wilson County as such: "You'll be surprised at how much it means to you after you get started. Even if you have some reservations at the beginning. You'll be surprised how much you depend on and look forward to it and I'm thankful for it. It's just a good program."



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AMERICAN RED CROSS

The Northeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross has been incredibly busy over the past year. We maintain our presence in Wilson County because we are a proud partner agency of the United Way of Wilson County. We respond to daily disasters like home fires, we educate the Wilson community through life saving preparedness classes such as First Aid/ CPR, Red Cross Ready, and we hold blood drives to collect lifesaving blood that is used throughout hospitals and for patients with cancer, Sickle Cell disease and other medical emergencies. Our Sound the Alarm events target specific areas in the community where we install free smoke alarms and provide

fire safety education. On a recent Wilson SA we partnered with the Wilson Fire Department and we installed 60 alarms and educated over 107 individuals, including one individual with disabilities and a military veteran.

Down the street. Across the Country. Around the world. We are able to continue our life saving mission of impacting the lives of our community members when we are needed the most. Our volunteers don't just take care of their Wilson Community, they deploy throughout the United States to help those in need. Disaster Action Volunteer, Bernard Pickett recently deployed to South Dakota to ensure our Red Cross Mission.



Y.O.U.T.H. OF WILSON COUNTY

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES TOGETHER

Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson has been standing up for a stronger community for 42 years because of your caring and generous donations through the United Way of Wilson.

Have you ever driven by the Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson County office at the corner of Pine and Green street and wondered, "What is that place and what do they do?" The Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson team prepares for youth referred to the program to complete community projects. They are gathering supplies, tools, and instructions prior to leaving the office. The team members are busy welcoming families and youth into our facility.

Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson is always ready to welcome youth who need a place to hang out or to grab a snack. Families visit if they need hygiene items, cleaning supplies or school supplies. The youth know that they can come here any time they need a "safe place" and need to talk to any of the Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson team members. One of the former youth pro-

gram participants ran away from home and came to the office the next day because he remembered the office as a safe place where he could get food. The team collaborated with community partners and law enforcement to return the youth home safely.

Families and youth can find many different resources at the Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson office. For example, medication locked bags or boxes (Lock your Meds), gun locks (NC SAFE), vape training and its dangers, substance use information and resources, R.E.S.T. program (Ala-teen), school supplies, hygiene supplies, a library of books and many other resources are available at all times.

Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson County is a referral-only agency that provides prevention and intervention services to youth ages 6 - 18. Our programs provide a vehicle for youth to be held accountable and earn restitution for victims of juvenile crimes. Our mission includes positively developing our youth to be successful youth today and as adults, rehabilitating youth offenders, and compensating victims of juvenile crimes.

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252-234-0009 • Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm**

SHOP WITH US!

Store proceeds help build Habitat homes for local partner families.

DONATE!

We accept furniture, appliances, building materials, cabinets, electronics, light fixtures, tools & other household items.

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.



*Celebrating 42 Years of Serving
Wilson County Youth 1982-2024*

Y.O.U.T.H.
of Wilson County
Youth Oriented Understanding Through Help

**WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE
WILSON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORTING
THE Y.O.U.T.H. OF WILSON COUNTY
AND OUR MISSION THE PAST 42 YEARS!**

Contact us to make a difference!

*Visit us at youthofwilson.org
114 Pine Street NE • 252-243-3675*

Proud Member Agency Since 1984

Donating to the United Way of Wilson County is an investment in the well-being of our community. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us address critical issues and support those in need. Here are a few reasons why your donation is so important:

Supporting Vital Programs: Your donations enable us to fund a wide-range of programs and services that directly benefit individuals and families in our community. From providing emergency assistance and food security to supporting education and health initiatives, your contributions help us address the most pressing needs.

Leveraging Community Resources: Your contribution doesn't just stop at direct funding. The United Way uses donations to leverage additional resources, partnerships, and volunteer efforts, multiplying the impact of each dollar given. This collective approach maximizes the positive effects on our community.

Building a Stronger Community: When you donate to the United Way, you are not just helping individuals; you are contributing to the overall strength and resilience of our community. Your generosity helps create a supportive environment where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Empowering Local Nonprofits: The United Way partners with local nonprofits that have a deep understanding of our community's unique challenges. By donating, you are supporting these organizations in their efforts to create positive change and improve the lives of our neighbors.