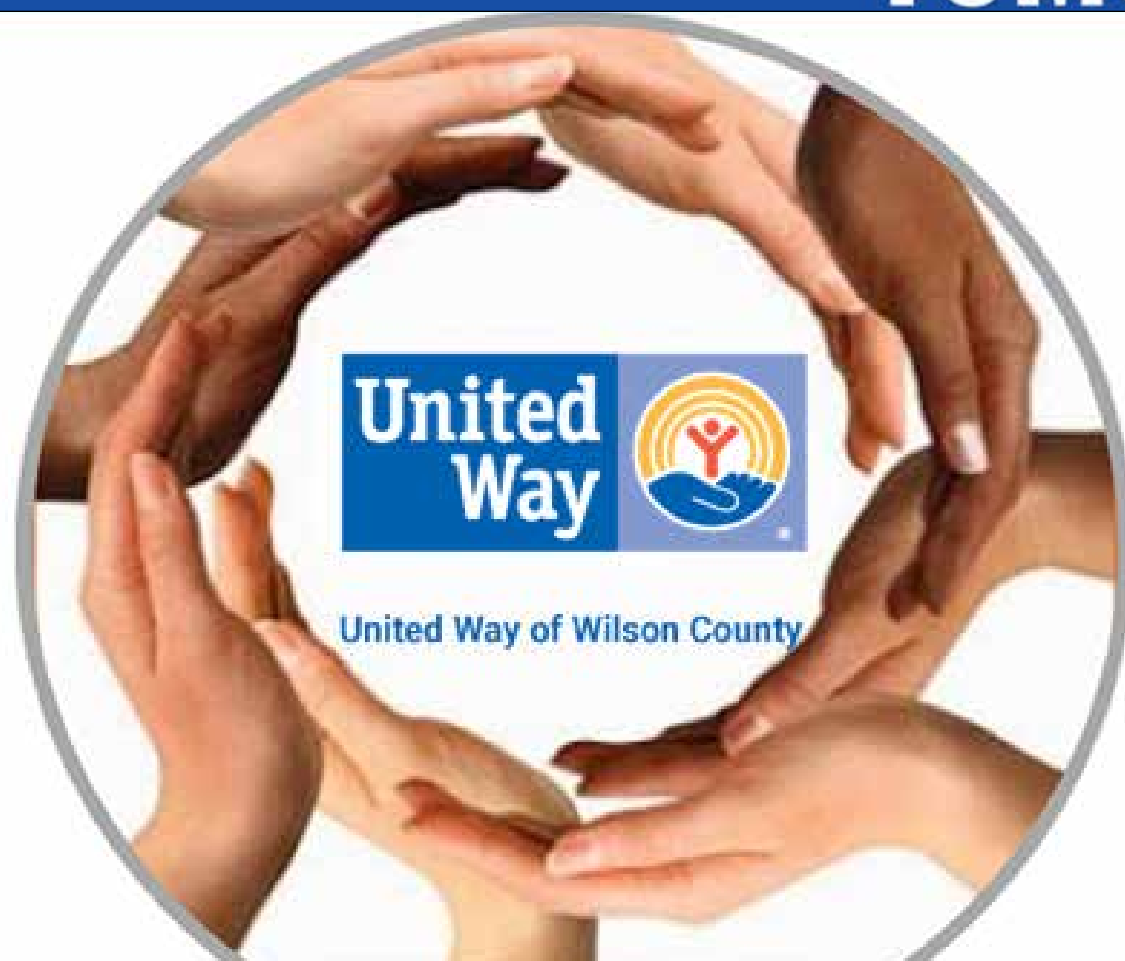


GIVE TODAY

CHANGE

TOMORROW



UNITED

WE IMPROVE LIVES

2023 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you to our many compassionate community leaders, volunteers, partners, and contributors. Your generous hearts and your commitment to doing good for others is greatly appreciated and the reason that our United Way has been serving Wilson County since 1959.

In my role as your United Way Executive Director, I am privileged to see how your donation works to change lives. Your dedication to serving our community through financial support and volunteerism is reflected in the numerous ways that United Way is helping people every day. Because of you, senior citizens receive home delivered meals, children attend after-school care leading to school readiness and people with challenged circumstances are learning skills leading to employment.

What your United Way is tackling in 2023 and beyond and how you can be part of helping resolve some of the most critical needs we see in our community.

United Way and our partners work every day to connect people in need of help to resources and programs that can

lift them out of poverty. Reducing poverty in Wilson County is a BOLD GOAL, and we can't do it alone. That's why we need everyone to help us. We need our donors, our nonprofits and community leaders to work together to achieve our goal of helping people find affordable housing, access to healthy food, and the under-employed and unemployed with an opportunity to receive training leading them toward employment and out of poverty. You can be a part of this by being part of the United Way campaign.

The United Way raises funds in a variety of ways to help nonprofit organizations provide strong programs with proven results to help people in our community. Workplace Campaigns and Residential Campaigns are essential to helping create a stronger community. If you have never been asked to donate to the United Way of Wilson County or if you are a past giver and want to see how United Way utilizes community donations, please join us on our program tours or learn how to serve on a committee or agency board.

It is important to know that Wilson

County donations stay in Wilson County. Each United Way is dedicated to addressing issues in their own communities and that is why what we raise here stays here!

United Way raises funds by sharing our story throughout the community. Our commitment to you is to ensure that donations to our United Way go to delivering quality programs. Together, you, our partners, and companies large and small have been committed to helping us with our goal to reduce homelessness, feed the hungry, keep people safe from domestic violence and change lives of people living in worry about how to provide basic needs for their family. We have been here helping people, thousands of people, because of you. In 2022 more than 30,000 people received services from our funded programs. Unfortunately, not everyone can be helped because funds are limited. Donations have declined over the years due to a variety of causes, but we are still here and still wanting to serve and that is why we need your help now more than ever.

For over 60 years, our community has asked the United Way to step in, to fill the gaps and to lend a hand to our most in need citizens. Because you believe that everyone deserves to have their basic needs met, we have made sure that programs are available to all people in our community. The programs are in place, but the needs are far greater than the available funds. Nonprofits cannot provide everyone with the needed shelter nights and the pantry food is sometimes low, making

it a challenge to serve those who need help. The United Way can't help others without the support from you.

How can you help when the needs are great? One of the things I like the most about the United Way is that one donation from many people can really make a difference in the lives of those who are struggling. United Way combines the \$5 donation with the \$4,000 donation, and the 500 people who all donated \$100, to collectively make a greater positive impact.

In a time of constant change, one thing that has stayed the same is that the United Way of Wilson County and you have been here to help people. In fact, thousands of people receive help from United Way programs because of you. Our work is great and not done yet.

Nonprofits are looking to the United Way to help them meet the needs of families and individuals, of older citizens and children. In short, the United Way is here to help all people by raising awareness and addressing the challenges in our community, but we can't do it without you!

If you stopped giving to the United Way, please know that your gift has been missed. If you are a current donor, please know your donation is helping. If volunteering is how you want to make a difference, please contact the United Way of Wilson County and our team will help connect you to ways you can GIVE TODAY to CHANGE TOMORROW.

With gratitude,

**Your United Way of Wilson County
Executive Director - Judi Thurston**



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
www.facebook.com/hopestationwilson.org



UNITED WAY OF WILSON COUNTY

WILSON CRISIS CENTER



“Happy Tuesday! This is Ms. E calling from the Wilson Crisis Center to say hello and share some time with you.”

Ms. E makes everyone feel special and loved. Her family abandoned her in Wilson twelve years ago, with no one to assist her. A concerned citizen, who stopped to help when she was sitting outside a building on a rainy night, brought her to us. We immediately asked questions and got answers so we could begin extending help. We found an available apartment, and with the help of persons in our community, found furniture and appliances. We provided her with food from our emergency food pantry as well as clothing needs.

While she is 73 years old, with serious health issues resulting from diabetes and high blood pressure, she is better and enjoys volunteering with our center. Clients eagerly await her calls and share their thoughts and concerns with her. She reminds them to take their medicine and eat nutritious food. Her smile radiates through the phone. She is so grateful to be a part of our family; we are her 24/7 security blanket. Being able to volunteer makes Ms. E feel needed and promotes a positive mental state. We strive to lift people up so they can have a better quality of life.

The Prom is back!!! Ms. E attended our 9th Senior-Senior Prom on May 13. The Wilson Crisis Center and Foundation YMCA entertained 450+ seniors with the assistance of 100+ teens. Many of our

seniors have never attended a prom. The prom brings all ages together, males and females, all races and religions.

Because of the generous support of the United Way of Wilson County, we are able to serve the citizens of Wilson County 24/7. The Wilson Crisis Center has been a United Way partner agency as long as the Crisis Center has been open, forming a partnership that creates positive changes for those who need assistance in the Wilson community. We serve the citizens with a live human voice who is knowledgeable of resources, referrals, support groups and offers assistance to those in need.

Our mission statement is “Extending a Helping Hand to Those in Need ... 24 Hours a Day ... Every Day.” We have 100+ volunteers each week making calls and following up to make certain our clients are well and safe.

Our key word when we talk to someone in person and on the phone is “LISTEN.” We invite everyone to help us celebrate 51 years of vital services to our community!

IMPACT: The Wilson Crisis Center answered over 40,500 phone calls during the past twelve months and placed wellness check phone calls to over 1400 seniors, disabled and challenged individuals every day, totaling 511,000 outgoing calls.



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

HOPE STATION

In a recent pizza social for the Hope Station Westview House Family Shelter clients, former residents met with current residents to share their stories about moving beyond homelessness.

They were able to provide encouragement and shine some light on the struggles that current residents are facing with housing search and placement. In an informal conversation in a welcoming place, glimmers of hope emerged for those living in uncertainty.

When asked how about the impact of the Hope Station on their lives, one family member responded, “I thank God for Hope Station. I was living in my car for a long time and they provided me with a bed and somewhere warm and safe to stay.” Another family member said, “Hope Station has been very amazing to me and my four kids. Without the help we received from Hope Station, I don’t know where we would be today.”

Two of the shelter families at that pizza social are now employed and comfortably housed — and looking toward a hope-filled future of self-sufficiency. Hope Station is grateful for its partnership with United Way of Wilson for making our services possible.

IMPACT:

In the past 12 months, Hope Station has:

- Provided shelter for 77 single men, and 34 families.
- Provided a total of 5,983 nights of shelter for 152 individuals.
- Provided housing services to 111 individuals / 57 individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Helped 65 individuals move in to permanent housing.
- Helped prevent evictions for 27 households / 68 individuals.

In addition to its shelter and housing services, Hope Station’s pantry:

- Served 2,247 different individuals / 952 different households in the last year.
- Provided 3-days-worth of healthy groceries to nearly 300 families / 750 individuals each month.
- Provided groceries for nearly 80,000 meals during the year.



MEALS ON WHEELS WILSON COUNTY

Updated Name, Same Mission

The Wilson County Office of Senior Citizens Affairs is now operating as Meals on Wheels Wilson County. After his appointment as Executive Director in December 2022, Michael Stanford put this change at the top of his to-do list. Stanford is a Wilson native and remembers his first volunteer experiences helping his grandmother deliver meals to older residents when Meals on Wheels operated out of First Presbyterian Church where he was a preschooler.

Since 1981, this organization has worked hard to deliver and provide over 2,440,000 meals throughout Wilson County with many volunteers and clients referring to the program as "Meals on Wheels" even though the official name of the Wilson County Office of Senior Citizens Affairs program was Home Delivered Meals. Becoming a member and adopting the brand of Meals on Wheels America gives Meals

on Wheels Wilson County a more recognizable presence in Wilson County. With this update comes a new logo which signifies people coming together to deliver Meals on Wheels.

While delivering meals is the primary function of the organization, Meals on Wheels is more than a meal. Because of the support of the United Way of Wilson, we help improve the quality of life for older adults by enabling them to remain at home as long as possible while preserving their personal dignity and assisting their ability to function independently. We also have four congregate nutrition sites located throughout the county: at our home office on Tarboro Street, the Lucama Community Center, the Stantonsburg Community Building, and the Elm City Train Depot. Please visit our website for more information at www.mowwilson.org.

IMPACT: Meals on Wheels serves over 31,000 meals a year to our Wilson residents.



UNITED

WE IMPROVE LIVES

**MEALS
on WHEELS
WILSON COUNTY**

252-237-1303

Home Delivered Meals • Congregate Nutrition Sites

Volunteer to discover the power of a knock!

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POLICE ATHLETICS LEAGUE (PAL)

Wilson Police Departments Police Athletics League (PAL) hosted several camps over the summer. In June, PAL hosted the 20th annual PAL football camp, PAL baseball camp, and the PAL softball camp.

During football camp, approximately 140 males and females participated with different football stations and skills and cheerleading. PAL baseball had approximately 60 males, and softball had 25 females.

Kids also enjoyed playing kickball and softball.

PAL continues to honor the memory of Captain Reggie K Smith by painting his initials on the football field this summer. PAL also appreciates the United Way of Wilson County, who in part, provides funding for the many activities.

IMPACT: PAL is a partnership between youth, police and the community that builds positive relationship through recreational, athletic and educational programs designed to encourage good citizenship. On average, Wilson PAL annually serves approximately 800 local youth.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

The Northeastern Chapter of the American Red Cross maintains its presence in the Wilson area through the support of the United Way of Wilson and our dedicated volunteers. Because of this support we can deliver services that impact the lives of our neighbors and friends in Wilson.

When disasters strike, such as fires or power outages due to storms, we go to aid those in need with financial support referrals and resources or opening shelters. The Red Cross is able to assist those most in need often in their darkest moments. To prepare our communities we provide lifesaving courses and preparedness presentations. We continue to work to ensure much needed services in times of crisis and times of calm. The power of our volunteers, donors and community partners, such as the United Way, is the cornerstone to the success of our mission.

IMPACT: With every pint of blood collected from individual donors during our blood drives, we have the opportunity to save three lives.



THE SPOT

UNITED ARE WE

The SPOT is proud to be a partner agency of the United Way of Wilson County, Inc.

The SPOT's upcoming after-school program is poised for the most successful year since we opened our doors in 2010. Students enrolled will represent 11 different schools in the county. Over 300 students will take part in academic enrichment, family engagement, activity based learning and social wellness programs. 85% of all students attend the SPOT free and receive free supper and weekend meals throughout the year.

UNITED WE ARE in supporting our kids academically and physically. SPOT Sports will increase its programs to include "Clinics in Lacrosse" and continue its soccer league in 2024. Wilson SPOT football combines FUNDamentals and an avenue for players of all skill levels to participate. The league represents 9 surrounding communities, fielding a total of 27 teams and serving over 800 players.

The SPOT's volunteer coaches are USA Heads-Up football certified and take pride in helping our young players learn the game and even more pride in watching our kids play in middle school and high school games for our Wilson County Schools. This year the SPOT would like to recognize Coach Trey Pittman. Coach Pit-

tman has been coaching for the SPOT since we opened in 2010. Coaching in his 13th year, he has held the position of Rookie Assistant Coach, Junior Varsity Defensive and Offensive coordinator, and Head Coach. This year Coach Pittman joined our Varsity squad. Coach Pittman is married, has three boys, and works full time for the City of Raleigh. His oldest son is a standout player at Fike High School and his youngest is on the Wilson SPOT Warrior football team. His dedication to all kids in Wilson has led to The SPOT successes on the field and more importantly, the success of his players off the field. UNITED WE ARE in sharing our enthusiastic support for Coach Trey Pittman. Visit the SPOT website www.thewilsonspot.org and become a volunteer. Leave your mark on the kids in Wilson County.

IMPACT: 85% OF ALL YOUTH ATTEND THE SPOT FREE YEAR ROUND. 98% OF ALL STUDENTS ARE PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE. 100% OF ALL AFTER-SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE FREE MEALS. MEALS SERVED IN 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR EQUAL 33,110. 65% OF THE SPOT AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER CAMP PARTICIPANTS PLAY 1 OR MORE SPORTS. SPOT SPORTS ARE OPEN TO ALL WILSON COUNTY KIDS.



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252-206-5510 | 1701 Forest Hills Rd W, Wilson NC 27893

THE ARC OF WILSON COUNTY

The Arc of Wilson County has been a quiet force in Wilson County since 1971. The Arc of Wilson County serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and focuses on social activities and programs for these individuals.

The Arc of Wilson County is a small chapter of The Arc of the US and The Arc of NC, yet we can successfully provide quality programs for individuals with IDD in Wilson County through our partnership with The United Way of Wilson and the support of our community.

The Arc of Wilson County's Camp Sunshine is a summer day camp for children with IDD. The Arc relies on its partnership with The SPOT, another United Way agency, to make Camp Sunshine successful. The SPOT generously allows Camp Sunshine to use one of their buses to travel from our camp location to park, pool, and other activities each day. Camp Sunshine also travels to The SPOT's campus for lunch.

One of the core values of The Arc states "people with IDD are part of and contribute to the fabric of society. Everyone benefits when people with IDD are present and participate."

Each year, The Arc of Wilson County hosts a variety of activities, programs, and events for individuals with IDD. If you happen to go bowling on a Sunday evening or attend a Tobs game on a Thirsty Thursday, there's a chance you may see The Arc and its clients participating in our community. Feel free to come say hello and meet these incredible people. The only way to move forward is by working together and by remembering that United Are We!

IMPACT: We provide over 300 hours of recreational and social activities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities every year.



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@arcowilsonnc.org



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Wilson Area
Habitat for Humanity®

ReStore

Building Dreams One Donation At A Time

626 Ward Blvd., Wilson, NC (Behind Pizza Inn)
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.



THE WESLEY SHELTER, INC.

The Wesley Shelter supports domestic violence victims and survivors in the Wilson community.

A recent survivor is a young mother of three small children, referred by a neighboring county due to the severity of her situation and the need for relocation. It took the entire staff to coordinate all the logistics to relocate the family. We worked closely with the Wilson Police Department to ensure the safety of the family and our Executive Director during their pickup from the Amtrak station.

Upon arriving at the Safe House, the client was understandably overwhelmed, as is often the case with our guests. However, our staff and fellow guests offered a warm welcome and provided support as she settled in with her children. In the days to follow, the Wesley Shelter staff worked closely with the referring organization regarding the client's ongoing court case in her home county. She also needed to retrieve their personal belongings from the home she shared with her harm-doer. Once all arrangements and safety measures were in place, we worked with local law enforcement to ensure the client and her children were safe during her commute via Amtrak to resolve the legal matter.

After her court case, the client returned to the Safe House feeling much safer and grateful for the efforts of both agencies to protect her and her children. While advocates for the mother agreed it was best for the family's safety not to grant visitation to the father, the judicial system granted visitation three days a week. In partnership with the referring agency and the Wilson Police Department, we ensure the visitation happens safely while keeping the client's location confidential and complying with all court orders.

Our client has experienced significant growth, empowerment, safety, and freedom. Like many of our clients, this exceptional mother needed systems and support to align with one common goal — ensuring her family's safety, self-sufficiency, and sustainability. Collaborating with the referring agency was an honor, and we learned a great deal from each other — the true essence of community.

This client and her family are THRIVING — this is why we do what we do! As a partner agency of the United Way of Wilson County, Inc., their support enables us to continue to combat domestic violence for women and men in our community. The Wesley Shelter also appreciates the generosity and showering of gifts and donations from the Wilson community.



IMPACT: During the second quarter of 2023, the Wesley shelter provided close to 7,000 services for over 2,400 clients.

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

“It is never too late to start over.” This quote comes from our newest team member at Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson, Jim.

Thirty-one and half years ago, Jim found himself standing in front of a Juvenile Court judge being adjudicated on simple assault because he was in a “fight at school.” He received 12 months of probation, 48 hours of community service and 48 hours in a detention center.

At the age of 16, Jim quit school and decided to acquire his GED. Jim joined the Army and later decided to return to college, Barton College, to become a Social Worker. Jim came back to Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson to complete his internship and after graduating in May 2023, we decided to hire him part time while he pursues his Masters Degree. Jim shares his experiences with our young people and demonstrates to them the importance of never giving up and giving back. Jim is a true success story of Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson County.

The Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson County has been serving the youth ages 6 to 18 for the past 40 years. Our mission has been and still is to provide



Jahki at 17 years old on his graduation day!

a Volunteer Mentoring Program (M.A.T.C.H.) for young people who need a positive role model and/or friend. These volunteers go through an evidence-based training program,

background and reference checks and interviews. Over the years, these volunteers have spent many hours of valuable time with our young people that just needed someone to listen and exchange thoughts. These volunteers have been responsible for “firsts” in many of these young people’s lives. Many of the activities, trainings for the volunteers and fami-

lies were provided by our partnership with United Way of Wilson County.

Y.O.U.T.H. of Wilson County has been The Wilson County Community Service/Restitution Program for Wilson County over the past 35 years. We are the referral agency for Juvenile Court, Juvenile Services diversions and for Teen Court restitution. This referral only program provides youth under the age of 18 and are offenders of the law, a way to rehabilitate and give back to their community and provide restitution to victims of juvenile crimes. Youth referred to us through this program provide services to many Community Events by setting up and manning tables, being a part of the “Deadhead Society” at the City of Wilson Rose Garden, Adopt-A-Highway, Agriculture Center Gardens, Habitat for Humanity, local churches and many more projects across Wilson County.

IMPACT: For over 40 years, this program has: served over 10,000 youth and families, provided over 100,000 community services hours, and paid victims of juvenile crimes over \$115,000 in Wilson County.

*Celebrating 41 Years of Serving
Wilson County Youth 1982-2023*

Y.O.U.T.H.
of Wilson County
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KHJ graduated high school in June 2023, and is excited to start school this fall to be an Aviation Mechanic!



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



1010 Herring Ave., Wilson
(252) 291-0378



DIVERSIFIED OPPORTUNITIES, INC.



Working quickly and efficiently are the keys to success at the Canteen Vending, Inc. location in Wilson, NC, and the Diversified Opportunities clients on staff there are proving that they can provide those skills and more.

“We need people who are dependable, here on time, here every night, people who work well with others,” said Carl Proctor, District Manager with Canteen Vending, an on-demand retail and food service company. “We’ve got to be precise on our count because our accountability starts on our line here. And speed — we’re a competitive group. We come to work to come in first. We push, and we need people who can move with us. We’re only as fast as our slowest person. So we need people who are competitive, and right now we’ve got a good group.”

Canteen currently employs three Diversified clients at its Wilson location. Zaccehaeus, Jakquez, and Ann all began working at Canteen in the spring of 2021, which was in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Proctor says much of the success of hiring DOI clients is attributed to Renee Bowie, DOI’s Employment Specialist.

“Renee spent time at Canteen, looking at the jobs and making sure that she could find the right person who she felt would be qualified to take care of us,” Proctor said. “I learn the job at the same time our clients do,” said Bowie. “If an employer wants to move one of our clients to another area of the company and they need some additional training

or assistance, they call me and I come back in and help train them again. I tell people that if I ever lost my job at Diversified, I could find a job anywhere,” laughed Bowie.

Proctor said that he feels very secure when it comes to Diversified finding the right clients for the job. “Renee has been really good at spending the time she needs with whomever she needs to spend it with,” Proctor said. “If Renee is comfortable, and if the individual feels comfortable, then I feel comfortable.”

“We’ve had a really good experience with Diversified and they should put me down as a reference,” continued Proctor. “Probably what people don’t realize is that Diversified has a person onsite training, and it’s at no cost to us and chances are we’re going to get a good employee.”

To learn more about DOI’s Employment Services program or any other programs and services offered at DOI call 252-291-0378. Diversified Opportunities is a proud member agency of the United Way of Wilson County, Inc.

IMPACT: Diversified Opportunities provides specific training for clients to be successful employees for local businesses. As a result of this collaboration, Zaccehaeus, Jakquez, and Ann have enjoyed meaningful employment with Canteen Vending, Inc. for 2+ years.

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NEEDING HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES**

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

**34,824 RESOURCES WERE PROVIDED IN 2022 -
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DISASTER RELIEF - MENTORING - JOB AND LIFE
SKILL TRAINING**

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**PROVIDING HOME DELIVERED MEALS TO
HOME-BOUND SENIORS ALLOWING THEM TO LIVE
INDEPENDENTLY IN THEIR HOMES**