

Impact Wilson

June 2020

A Wilson Forward Newsletter



Growing and Changing, Together

The past few months have challenged us to think and do things differently. We have asked many questions, but one seems to stand out: What have we learned from our experiences in the first half of 2020? It is a broad question that prompts a personal and professional reflection, and the most difficult questions rarely have simple answers. Chaos usually removes us from our comfort zone, and as we emerge from the discomfort, we can choose to grow and change. Real change can be hard.

The pandemic has highlighted weaknesses in our healthcare, education, and workforce systems, and the recent race conversations have emphasized how much we can learn from the perspectives and experiences of others. Wilson Forward is an organization that strives to improve the quality of life for all, and we have an extraordinary opportunity to examine our approach to ensure we are working towards justice and equality for all people of Wilson. Change can be a catalyst for great things, and our strategic plans will have to adapt so that we are building collaborations and partnerships that reflect where we are now -- not where we were at the beginning of this year. We do not know when we will be able to gather in the same room to brainstorm and work out strategies with all of our partners, but ultimately, we will reconnect to create real and enduring progress. We are growing, and we are changing -- together.

Wilson Wellness Collaborative Marks One Year

The Wilson Wellness Collaborative marked our first anniversary since community partners from all sectors gathered in May of 2019. The Wellness Collaborative developed a 3 year plan to support the health and wellness for all those who work, live, and play in Wilson. Over the past year, over 60 community partners have convened quarterly to discuss the ongoing work, our progress towards the identified goals, and new partnership and collaboration opportunities. We are grateful for all of the partnerships that have made the Wilson Wellness Collaborative possible, and we look forward to the year ahead.







meeting on February 27th, 2020



on April 23rd, 2020

Read More About the Wilson Wellness Collaborative...

Wilson Leadership Institute

Despite a two-month delay in gathering, the Wilson Leadership Institute was excited to reconvene in May with a presentation by Dr. Karen Palasek on the Herman HBDI model personal assessments and its relationship to teamwork. In 2015, Wilson Forward partnered with the Wilson Chamber of Commerce and Wilson Economic Development Council to offer the Wilson Leadership Institute (formerly named the Impact Initiative). The Wilson Leadership Institute is designed specifically to identify, train, and deploy individuals with interest in representative leadership positions in and for Wilson. In October of 2021, the third class of participants will graduate in the Wilson Forward Annual Meeting.



Support Wilson Forward with Amazon Smile You Shop, Amazon Gives

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Wilson Forward every time you



shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile

device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you can select Wilson Forward to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation!





community, and many of our partners provide annual investments to support our organization. Wilson Forward operates on a modest budget, and we are funded through the steadfast support of our city and county governments as well as every sector represented through our Board of Directors. Over the past few years, we have established a more significant investment from the corporate and private sector of our community, and in the years ahead, we will strive to build even stronger relationships with our local business partners and individual community members. CONTRIBUTE TODAY!

COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS Upcoming Community Partner Events & Programs



Paula Benson, Executive Director

PBenson@WilsonForward.org Cameron Cochran, Associate Director

CCochran@WilsonForward.org



WILSON FORWARD



