



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY

**Partners Collaborate To Strengthen Early Childhood Education**

The Wilson Wellness Collaborative (WWC) represents a cross-sector collaboration of over 90 community partners committed to improving health and wellness in Wilson County. Through this collaboration, we connect diverse resources, experiences, and leadership to the structure and implementation of a holistic approach to community health. Recently a group of WWC partners, led by Wilson County DSS, was chosen to participate in an initiative to strengthen our early education recourses.



Formed through a partnership between the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) and The Hunt Institute, the Local Data-Informed Strategic Planning Initiative aims to provide training and technical assistance to support a diverse county-level cross-sector approach to local strategic planning informed by early childhood data.

Early childhood, particularly the first 5 years of life, impacts long-term social, cognitive, emotional, and physical development. Healthy development in early childhood helps prepare children for the educational experiences of kindergarten and beyond. Early childhood development and education are key determinants of future health and well-being. Addressing the disparities in access to early childhood development and education opportunities can greatly bolster young children's future health outcomes.

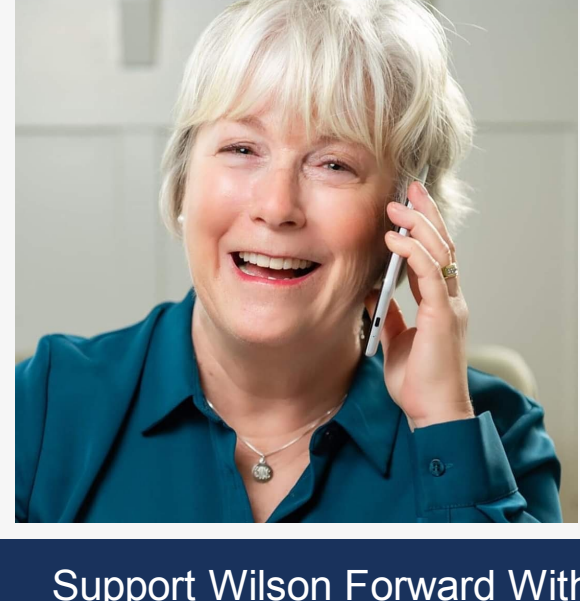
Wilson Forward's mission is to improve Wilson's educational opportunities, health and wellness, and workforce development, and we approach every opportunity and challenge through a collaborative lens. Community partners convene routinely to discuss ongoing work, progress towards identified goals, and new partnership and collaboration opportunities through initiatives like the Wilson Wellness Collaborative.

*"We believe working together with a strong group of community leaders who are focused on our county-level specific data will help us develop actionable plans to help children and families become healthy, safe and nurtured, and ready to learn and succeed."*

- Candice Rountree, Wilson County Department of Social Services

Learn More About Early Education in Wilson County Here

**Introducing The Newest Member of the Wilson Forward Team!**



Susan "Bootsie" Barnes Harris is the Operations and Administrative Coordinator of Wilson Forward. Bootsie joined Wilson Forward in January 2022, bringing her extensive experience in banking, real estate, operations, management, and compliance. Born and raised in Wilson, Bootsie lived in several communities before settling back in Wilson with her husband Jerry, who also grew up in Wilson. She holds a BA degree from Peace College and has a deep passion for promoting and serving the Wilson community.

Read More About the Leadership of Wilson Forward

**Support Wilson Forward With A Visit To Casita Brewing Co.**

As a community-minded local business, Casita Brewing Company graciously donates 25% of their monthly tips to a local non-profit each month, and Wilson Forward is thrilled to be their February community partner. Check out Casita Brewing's list of events below to support Wilson Forward in the month of February and every month throughout the year to support local Wilson non-profits!



Explore February Events at Casita Brewing

**DID YOU KNOW?**

*Wilson Forward's use of data is a core element of our collective impact approach. We collect and learn from data so we can openly share information and adapt our strategies in response to an ever-changing environment.*

Overdose deaths occurring among North Carolina residents have been on the rise. The misuse of and addiction to opioids—including prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl—is a serious national crisis that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the total "economic burden" of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement. This metric includes deaths involving all types of medications and drugs: opioids (commonly prescribed opioids, heroin, and synthetic narcotics like fentanyl and fentanyl-analogues), stimulants (cocaine, methamphetamine), benzodiazepines, and others. This metric includes fatal overdoses of all intents; over 90% of these deaths are unintentional.



Interested in Exploring More Wilson Data? Visit the Wilson Forward Data Dashboard Here

**COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS**  
Upcoming Community Partner Events & Programs

**A Calendar for the Wilson Community**

www.EXPLOREWILSON.COM

ONE ENTRY shares your event on multiple partner calendars  
NO AND/OR to enter events on calendar  
GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS at ExploreWilson.com

Be sure to stay up to date with the local events happening in Wilson County!  
ExploreWilson.com is our local community calendar where you can find all of Wilson's events. Explore Wilson represents a collaboration of multiple community partners to provide a community calendar supported by a coalition of local organizations that have a shared commitment to promoting events that add to Wilson's cultural and economic identity. Community members and groups can add qualifying public events on the calendar for free at any time! Guidelines for qualifying events may be found on the website.

Explore Wilson Here

**WILSON COVID-19 VACCINE AND TESTING**

**WILSON COVID-19 VACCINE & TESTING LOCATIONS**

VACCINE LOCATIONS	TESTING LOCATIONS
CAROLINA FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES WILSON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER 302 E. Main Street (252) 291-3217	JANE LAMB (PHYSICIAN OF PRADLO (PHYSICIAN)) 3002 North St. 18 (252) 291-3217
ONE PHARMACY 603 Weaver Mills Road (252) 293-6666 (252) 291-4039	WILSON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER 302 E. Main Street (252) 291-3217
AMBER TRISTE 3106 South Street (252) 291-4466	CAROLINA FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES 302 E. Main Street (252) 291-3217
ONE PHARMACY 1803 Raleigh Street (252) 291-4039	WILSON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER 302 E. Main Street (252) 291-3217
PRADLO FAMILY & TOTAL IMPACT OUTREACH 3002 North St. 18 (252) 291-3217	WILSON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER 302 E. Main Street (252) 291-3217
MINISTERS 300 E. Main Street (252) 291-3217	WILSON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER 302 E. Main Street (252) 291-3217
WILSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 1000 North Lenoir Street (252) 291-4611	WILSON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER 302 E. Main Street (252) 291-3217
WILSON VALLEY DRUG 1000 North Lenoir Street (252) 291-4611	WILSON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER 302 E. Main Street (252) 291-3217

**WILSON FAMILY YMCA VALENTINES**

For the entire month of February we are offering the chance to try the Y. For \$14 you can use the Y for 14 days. Check in with our Front Desk and get your punch card. On your fourteenth and final visit, join the Y and have your join fee waived!

**WEP TRIVIA/SPELLING BEE**

**BEE on a TRIVIA TEAM...**  
March 3, 2022  
7:00 PM  
Hunt High School

**EYES ON MAIN STREET**

**Bulldogs Football Year One**  
Barton College

Olivier Metzger Photographer

02.02.2022  
02.26.2022

Eyes on Main Street Gallery  
126-128 Goldsboro Street  
Wilson, NC 27893

Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday  
Noon to 4PM  
Friday  
Noon to 6PM

www.eyesonmainstreetwilson.com

**WILSON ARTS EVENTS**

**Creative Workshops for Adults**

Start the new year off right with CREATIVITY!

January 29 (Rescheduled from 1/23)  
"Get Your Groove On!" - Musical Jamming

January 29  
"Crazy Yarn" with the Fabulous Farmer THE CLASS IS FULL

February 5  
"Personal Glass Pendant" with Kim Joy

February 10  
"Personal Framing with Gail"

February 12 & 19  
"Crazy Yarn with Denise"

COMING UP

Saturday, March 5 / 7:00-10:00 p.m.  
Tickets: \$35 per person or \$60 per couple  
www.WILSONARTS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

COMING UP

ACT! for Youth and Wilson Arts Present  
**OLIVER!**  
The Musical  
Edna Boykin Cultural Center  
February 3, 4, 5 at 7:30 pm  
February 6 at 3:00 pm  
Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors & Students

COMING UP

Miniature Masterpieces  
"Paint Your Own Little Masterpiece"

Thursday, February 24 / 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
\$50 per ticket  
www.WILSONARTS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact us with any questions or inquiries

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PBenson@WilsonForward.org

Cameron Cochran, Associate Director  
CCochran@WilsonForward.org

Connect with us through the links below!

