







May 2020

A Wilson Forward Newsletter



Challenges Bring Opportunity

Many of us have experienced the financial, emotional, and physical impact of COVID-19, but we have also found opportunities to adapt and learn. The challenges of the past few weeks have redefined the way most of us work and communicate, and we have relied on new resources for dealing with personal and professional obstacles. Our local business community has rallied with innovation and resilience, and our community partners have stayed gracious and genuine.

The world is experiencing a health crisis that has fueled an economic crisis. We have felt the disconnection from our normal functions, and the heartbreak of this pandemic will certainly cloud many of our memories. However, we have embraced an opportunity to re-invent our work and invest in a more agile and compassionate approach to partnerships and collaborations. As we move through the weeks ahead, we feel confident our community partners will build on this experience to spark new ideas that offer relevant and practical solutions for our future. These challenging times have pushed us to be our best, and as the "new normal" emerges in front of us, Wilson partners will continue to respond with resilience.

Local Leaders Staying Connected

On May 14, the board members of Wilson Forward met virtually. We received updates from Wilson County, City of Wilson, Wilson County Schools, Wilson Medical Center, United Way, and our agribusiness sector. We have never been more appreciative for the exemplary and compassionate leadership in Wilson.



Pictured Above: The Wilson Forward Board of Directors, May 14th Virtual Meeting

Support Wilson Forward with Amazon Smile

You Shop, Amazon Gives



supports

Wilson Forward!

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.

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!

Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the

Seeking Leader for After School Middle School Program



The Wilson Family YMCA is seeking a Program Director to lead the design, implementation, and sustainable operation of a high quality, hands-on accessible after school program for all middle school students in Wilson County, NC. The future middle school after school network will create opportunities for middle schoolers to discover their strengths, explore their passions, and help their young minds grow with a focus on health and wellness. The Healthcare Foundation of Wilson has endowed the future success and wellbeing of our community's youth by entrusting the YMCA to lead nd sustain the after school network. The new director will design and implement the program, coordinate a network of community service providers to create impactful opportunities for middle school students as program participants, evaluate program providers, measure program outcomes, and provide leadership for a team to successfully implement and sustain the program. Contact Kathie Davis, Executive Director of the Wilson Family YMCA at kdavis@wilsonymca.org for more information.





the partnerships we have with our local 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.

COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS

Upcoming Community Partner Events & Programs



questions or inquiries

Paula Benson, Executive Director PBenson@WilsonForward.org

CCochran@WilsonForward.org

Cameron Cochran, Associate Director



the links below!



