



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY

## RECONNECTING DIFFERENTLY Wilson Forward Annual Meeting 2020

Even without the joy of handshakes, hugs, and networking that traditionally accompany the Wilson Forward Annual Meeting, this year's virtual event provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community. Great insight, encouragement, and new perspectives were offered to a full "house" of attendees by three very informative and inspiring keynote speakers. Keynote speakers included Mr. Leslie Boney, Executive Director of [Institute of Emerging Issues](#); Dr. Lane Mills, Superintendent of Wilson County Schools; and Mr. Dante Pittman, a Wilson native who was recently named the Human Relations Director for the City of Wilson.



*Pictured above: Dr. Doug Searcy, Will Aycock, Paula Benson and Leslie Boney*

With the technical support of Greenlight Community Broadband and the [Gig East Exchange](#), our virtual meeting provided a platform to consider innovative and essential ways to reconnect as partners who collaborate to build the best Wilson for all.

Our mission has always been to connect and reconnect people, organizations, and resources to build partnerships reflective of challenges and opportunities as they are presented to our community. As we considered the unique circumstances created by COVID-19, we extended our title to "Reconnect Differently." The past six months have transformed the way all of us work, play and learn, and we anticipate in the year ahead, we will continue seeking different ways to connect with each other and build solutions that move us forward.



*Pictured above: Cameron Cochran, Dante Pittman, Elliot Smith and Dr. Lane Mills*

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Couldn't Join Us?  
 Watch the  
 Wilson Forward  
 Annual Meeting Today!



## Become a Supporter Today



The meeting on October 8th also marked the beginning of our annual support campaign. Reconnecting and rethinking have always been part of Wilson Forward's work, and there has never been a more important time to feel connected with each other and our community. Wilson Forward represents all sectors working together for all who work and live in Wilson. We build connections between people, organizations, opportunities, and resources to improve education, health and wellness, and workforce development. Wilson Forward cultivates relationships and strengthens partnerships to achieve significant and long-lasting changes. The success of Wilson Forward is dependent on 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 all organizations 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!](#)

## Confronting Challenges Through Collaboration

### Wilson Wellness Collaborative

The Wilson Wellness Collaborative met virtually this month to discuss collaboration and partnership for mid and post-pandemic planning. We were particularly grateful for updates provided by Teresa Ellen (Wilson County Health Department), Candice Rountree (Wilson County DSS), Paige Chesson (Wilson Medical Center), Laura Owens (Carolina Family Health Centers, Inc.), Cheryl Wilson (Wilson County Schools), Kathie Davis (Wilson Family YMCA), and Denise O'Hara (Healthcare Foundation of Wilson).



*Pictured above: 25 of the participants at the Wilson Wellness Collaborative Meeting on October 22nd*

We are grateful for all of the partnerships that have made the Wilson Wellness Collaborative possible, and we appreciate the tireless efforts of our local agencies to respond in times of crisis. COVID19 has presented many challenges to the way we support health and wellness in Wilson. Community partners have found innovative ways to connect with each other to mitigate the immediate and future impact of the pandemic:

- Isolation and stress have negatively impacted people's mental health and created additional barriers for people who already suffered with mental illness and substance use disorders. Local partners will work collaboratively to identify specialized strategies for the Wilson community.
- The economic impact of the pandemic has strained the financial stability of our most vulnerable populations. Homelessness and access to safe and affordable housing are being addressed through the utilization of available resources. Although immediate actions are assisting those in desperate need, community partners are also engaged in collaborative discussions to support long-term safe and affordable housing for all.
- Our students are returning to in-person learning environments for the first time since March. Community partners are preparing for the potential surge in vaccinations and case referrals identified by the school system for our local children and their families.

[Read More Here](#)

## COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS

Upcoming Community Partner Events & Programs

**NCCARE360**

Looking Upstream: Using NCCARE360 to Mitigate Disparities in the Social Drivers of Health

Part 1: What is NCCARE360? 5/22/20  
 Part 2: Food and Housing Insecurity 10/22/20  
 Part 3: Employment and Childcare 11/17/20  
 Part 4: Intimate Partner Violence/Transportation 1/12/21

This course is originally specific to Wilson County and is being presented by Area 1, AHCEC.

Webinar Series Info Dates: 10:30am - 1:00pm, Sign up begins at 10:00pm.

**WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY SURVEY**

WILSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**UNITED WAY PANTRY ON THE PORCH**

WE NEED YOUR HELP!  
**PANTRY ON THE PORCH**

OCTOBER 30TH, 2020 | 9AM - 12PM  
 UNITED WAY OF WILSON COUNTY  
 909 W. MAIN ST.

DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO HELP STOCK OUR LOCAL NON-PROFITS AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR SNAP BENEFITS CHALLENGE!

**WCC GOLF TOURNAMENT**

WILSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP INVITATIONAL

Thursday, October 29, 2020  
 1 PM • Wedgewood Golf Course  
 3201 STANTONSBURG ROAD • WILSON, NC 27893

**THE SPOT**

THE SPOT 2020

INTERACTIVE INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

REMOTE LEARNING CENTER

NATURAL PLAY SPACE

WWW.THEWILSONSPOT.ORG

**WCS TECH HOTLINE**

WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students, Parents, & Staff

399.7717

WILSON FORWARD IS PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS!  
 IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP - LET US KNOW!  
 WE WOULD LOVE TO INCLUDE YOU IN OUR NEXT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

PLEASE EMAIL CAMERON COCHRAN AT [CCOCHRAN@WILSONFORWARD.ORG](mailto:CCOCHRAN@WILSONFORWARD.ORG) IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE AN EVENT

Please contact us with any questions or inquiries

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Connect with us through the links below!

OR

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