

A WYLD IMPACT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

WILKES YOUTH LIFE DEVELOPMENT



**WE ARE ON A MISSION
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

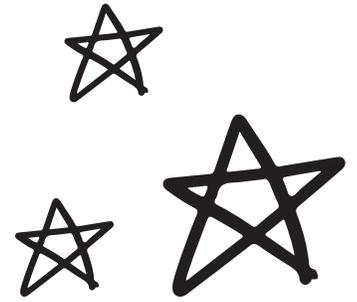
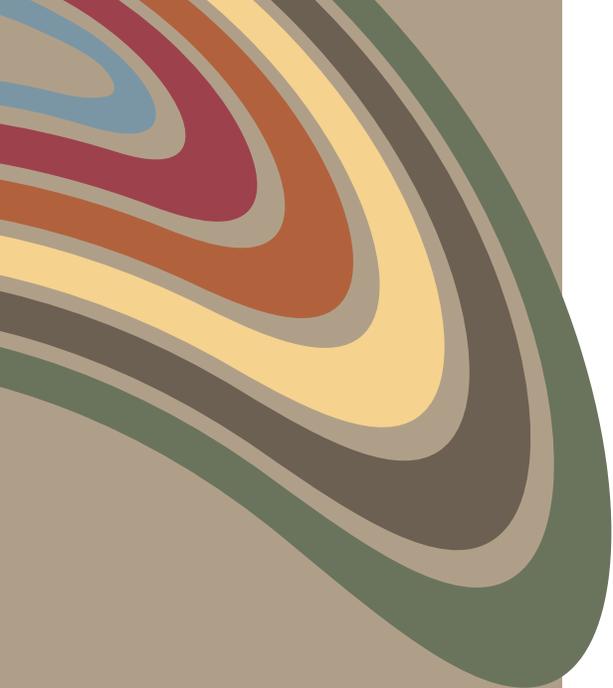


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Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on the journey of Wilkes Youth Life Development (WYLD), I am reminded of how deeply rooted we are in the fabric of this community and how much we have grown and evolved since the beginning. When we first planted the seeds of WYLD, one of our primary objectives was to give our youth a platform where their voices could be heard – a space where they could stand tall and know that they truly matter in Wilkes County.

Over the years, we have witnessed remarkable change – not only in the youth we serve but in the community as a whole. Our young leaders have blossomed into advocates, visionaries, and change-makers. They have taken on the responsibility to lead their peers, to serve with purpose, and to help shape a future where every young person has the opportunity to grow into a healthy and stoic adult.

But change does not happen in isolation. It is the roots we've established in this community that have allowed us to flourish. The unwavering support from our partners, supporters, and friends has been the foundation upon which we have built our programs and initiatives. Together, we have created a network of strength and resilience – a community that nurtures its youth and believes in their potential.

As we continue to grow, we remain committed to being deeply rooted in the values that have guided us from the beginning: empowering youth, fostering leadership, and creating opportunities for growth. Change is inevitable, but with strong roots, we can weather any storm and continue to thrive.

Thank you for trusting us with the important work of guiding and supporting our local youth. Your belief in our mission enables us to create lasting change, not just for today, but for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Luke Jarvis



Luke Jarvis
Founding Executive Director
Wilkes Youth Life Development (WYLD)

★ IMPORTANT! ★

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

WILKES YOUTH LIFE DEVELOPMENT (WYLD) IS A YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO DEVELOP HEALTHY AND RESILIENT YOUTH IN WILKES COUNTY SO THAT THEY HAVE THE SKILLS AND SUPPORT TO BECOME MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY FIT ADULTS.

OUR MISSION STANDS ON FOUR PILLARS THAT DETERMINE OUR PROGRAMS:

- ✓ MODELING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS,
- ✓ BUILDING POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS,
- ✓ PROVIDING MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES,
- ✓ AND CREATING A SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION THROUGH STRONG GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.

MEET THE TEAM



LUKE JARVIS

Executive Director

Luke Jarvis is the Executive Director of Wilkes Youth Life Development. He has worked in the prevention field for over four years. He is currently working to obtain his Master's in Public Administration. His favorite part about working with WYLD is seeing the youth get connected in our community.



KATHERINE JOHNSTON, M.S.

Programs Director

Katherine has worked with WYLD for three years. Her first year, she served as volunteer with the Teen Action Council. Her favorite part of being a WYLD Employee has been becoming more connected in the community. She enjoys gardening and cooking. Her favorite WYLD program is Sweet Dreams of Wilkes.



RYAN WINEBARGER

Project Coordinator

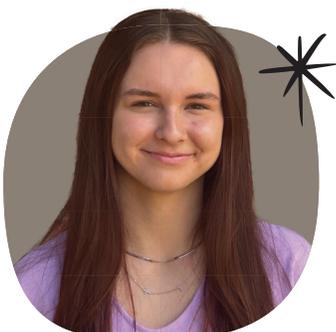
Ryan has been a WYLD employee for one year. He is the project coordinator for the Teen Action Council. He works closely with our school system to teach Teen Mental Health First Aid to 9th graders. Ryan is an avid disc golf enthusiast who grew up in Boomer, North Carolina, and is a passionate advocate for mental health. One of his favorite aspects of working with WYLD is the opportunity to engage with the youth of Wilkes County and promote mental health awareness.



REBEKAH FRANKLIN

Project Coordinator

Rebekah is a native of Wilkes County, but she has lived in West Texas for the past eleven years, and has finally come home! She has only been with WYLD for a short time, but she is really looking forward to giving back to the community and being involved with the youth of Wilkes County. In her spare time, she loves to cook, paint, and spend time with her wild nieces and nephews.



ALEXIS EADS

Social Media Coordinator

Alexis has been with WYLD for almost one year. She is studying psychology at UNC Charlotte. Once she graduates in May 2025, she will pursue a Master of Art in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She enjoys pottery and spending time in nature. What she loves most about working at WYLD is having the chance to support an organization she would have appreciated during her teenage years. Her favorite WYLD program is the Back-to-School Bash.

2024 - 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**JANE
CASAREZ**

Board President
Community Impact NC



**JESSICA
HAMMER**

Board Secretary
In the Garden Counseling



**BRYAN
TERRY**

Board Treasurer
NC State Highway Patrol



**VICTORIA
BROOKS**

Board Attorney
High Country Estate Law



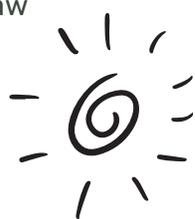
**JEFF
WALKER**

Board Member
Wilkes Recovery Revolution

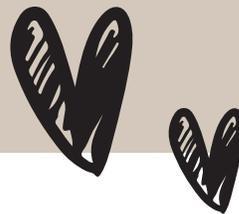


**THOMAS
SALLEY**

Board Member
Wilkes County Tourism



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO
THE WYLD MISSION WE'RE ON.
WE COULDN'T DO ALL THAT
WE DO WITHOUT THE ENDLESS
SUPPORT FROM EACH OF YOU.



**DREW
BROWN**

Board Member

Blue Ridge Ear, Nose & Throat



**LUKE
JARVIS**

Ex Officio

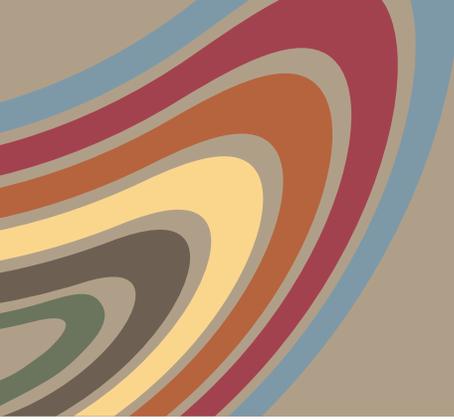
WYLD Executive Director



**ALICIA
ROBERTS**

Ex Officio

Teen Action
Council President



WHO, WHAT, WHEN & WHERE

2024 TIMELINE OF EVENTS



OCT
2023

CULTUREFEST WILKES COUNTY SCHOOLS

CultureFest was a pivotal experience for our Teen Action Council (TAC). We were honored to participate by distributing medication lock boxes to promote safe storage for medications at home. However, we quickly realized we came unprepared, bringing only English materials to a diverse event. A big shoutout to Kimberly, one of our TAC members, who stepped up to translate our information for attendees on the spot, allowing us to connect with more people. Following the event, our coalition committed to translating all of our resources into Spanish to better serve our entire community



SPOOKTACULAR DOWNTOWN NORTH WILKESBORO, NC & CREEPY CREEK TRAIL CUB CREEK PARK • WILKESBORO, NC

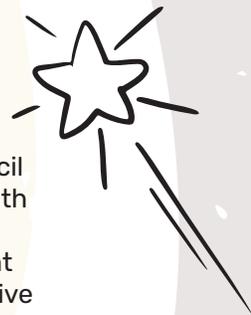
Spooktacular and the Creepy Creek Trail are two of our Teen Action Council's favorite events of the year! These Halloween celebrations provide a huge opportunity to engage with over 1,000 youth, where we distribute information on substance misuse and making healthy choices. We were also able to reach around 600 parents, offering guidance on how to start important conversations with their teens about staying safe. This year, our TAC debuted their 360-degree photo booth, capturing kids in their costumes and adding a fun, interactive twist to the spooky season festivities!





NOV
2023

LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN DOWNTOWN NORTH WILKESBORO, NC



During the Light Up Downtown event in North Wilkesboro, our Teen Action Council took center stage, providing information about our initiatives and connecting with the community. They set up an interactive booth, offering visitors the chance to create personalized holiday videos using our 360-degree photo booth. The event was a great way for our youth leaders to engage with the public and spread festive cheer, all while raising awareness about the important work WYLD is doing.

DEC
2023

CHRISTMAS CONCERT THE 1915 • WILKESBORO, NC

WYLD's first-ever Christmas Sweater Spectacular, hosted at The 1915, was a festive success! AndrewX and friends delivered an amazing live performance that energized the crowd and helped raise funds for our Teen Action Council. Attendees dressed in their holiday best, creating a vibrant atmosphere filled with fun, music, and community spirit. We couldn't have asked for a better turnout for this inaugural celebration, raising over \$1,000 to support our initiatives and further engage our youth in meaningful ways!

JAN
2024

CADCA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

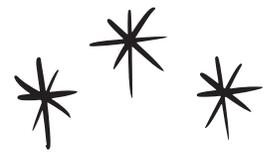


The CADCA National Leadership Forum is how we kick off the New Year with our Teen Action Council. Last year, six youth and four adults traveled to Washington, DC for this premier training event for prevention professionals, community leaders, and advocates. It was an incredible opportunity to share insights and collaborate on innovative strategies for driving lasting community change. Our Teen Action Council had the honor of meeting with Congresswoman Virginia Foxx and the pages for Senators Ted Budd and Thom Tillis, where they discussed key issues impacting Wilkes County.

JAN
CONTINUED

SAFE DATES

THE MASTHEAD • NORTH WILKESBORO, NC



Eight members of our Teen Action Council successfully completed the Safe Dates program, led by Jeremy Parks from Safe Spot Child Advocacy Center. This evidence-based program empowers teens to distinguish between healthy, supportive relationships and those that are controlling or abusive. The critical skills learned during this program help our youth navigate relationships during their formative preteen and teen years, equipping them to foster positive, respectful connections throughout their lives.

DARKNESS TO LIGHT TRAINING

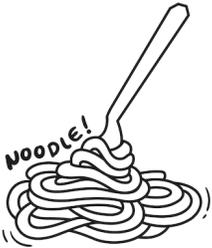
THE MASTHEAD • NORTH WILKESBORO, NC

At WYLD, keeping our youth safe is a top priority. To ensure we are following best practices, WYLD Staff, Board Members, and our Adult Advisory Committee completed the Darkness to Light program, led by Jeremy Parks at Safe Spot Child Advocacy Center. This program equips adults with practical strategies to prevent child sexual abuse within organizations, families, and communities. By empowering our team with knowledge and resources, we are fostering a culture of vigilance and care. We are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for every young person we serve, reinforcing our dedication to their well-being and development.

FEB
2024

SPAGHETTI DINNER

THE MASTHEAD • NORTH WILKESBORO, NC



Each year, our Teen Action Council takes the lead in organizing an annual fundraising event, showcasing their leadership and teamwork. The youth are responsible for every aspect of the event, from gathering and budgeting for supplies to cooking and serving the meal. This hands-on experience not only helps them develop essential skills but also fosters a sense of pride and ownership in their work. This year, they raised over \$1,000, demonstrating their commitment to making a positive impact in the community while truly enjoying the process of bringing everyone together!



MAR
2024

PROM PARTIES

THE BLOCK • NORTH WILKESBORO, NC

awesome

The After Prom Parties have become WYLD's 'claim to fame'! This year, we welcomed 557 students, with 280 of them signing a substance-free pledge, demonstrating their commitment to a healthy lifestyle. These events represent one of our Teen Action Council's largest outreach opportunities, as they work diligently to provide safe and positive environments post-prom for their peers. We are incredibly grateful for the support of The Block, our Adult Advisory Committee, and the North Wilkesboro Police Department, whose collaboration makes these annual celebrations not only possible, but successful!

EWHS



NWHS



WCHS



WVHS



WECHS



5 PARTIES

557 STUDENTS

ONE WYLD AF TIME



APR
2024

RACING FOR A DRUG FREE COMMUNITY

YADKIN VALLEY GREENWAY • NORTH WILKESBORO, NC

WYLD's first annual Racing for a Drug-Free Community 5K/10K race was a remarkable achievement, skillfully planned by our intern, Preston Jarvis, from Wilkes Community College. With the support of eight generous sponsors and 25 enthusiastic participants, we raised an impressive \$3,400 to promote a drug-free community. This event showcased the dedication of our youth and the community's commitment to making a positive impact. We are proud of Preston's hard work and leadership, which made this inaugural race a success!



MERLEFEST



WCC CAMPUS • WILKESBORO, NC

Each year, our Teen Action Council collaborates with MerleFest to help festivalgoers safely cross Pond Road, ensuring a smooth and positive experience for everyone. Next year, we're thrilled to be transitioning into the Little Pickers area, where we'll have even more opportunities to engage with families and the festival's young attendees. Our Teen Action Council believes it's incredibly important to stay active in the community, and this evolving partnership not only enhances festival safety but also strengthens our connections and furthers our mission to promote youth involvement in local events.





MEDICATION TAKE BACK

WESTPARK • NORTH WILKESBORO, NC

In partnership with our local Safe Kids Chapter, we hosted our most successful Medication Take Back event to date! We collected and safely disposed of an impressive 6.3 pounds of medications, helping to promote community safety and responsible medication practices. This initiative underscores our commitment to preventing substance misuse and ensuring a healthier environment for everyone. Thank you to all who participated and supported this important cause!

**MAY
2024**

TOUGHER THAN NAILS SCHOLARSHIP

We are proud to announce the first two recipients of the Tougher Than Nails Scholarship, both graduates from Wilkes Early College High School! These individuals are committed to pursuing careers in the trades, aligning perfectly with the scholarship's mission to support students at the start of their journey. Designed for those completing high school as their highest level of education, this award provides \$250 to help cover the costs of tools, uniforms, or equipment needed to launch their own businesses. We are excited to see how these students will build their future careers in trade work!

**JUN
2024**

NC PREVENTION CONFERENCE

RALEIGH, NC



Four members of our Teen Action Council were honored to present at the North Carolina Prevention Conference, a vital gathering for the state's prevention professionals to exchange ideas, plans, and educational resources. As the ONLY youth representatives at the event, our TAC group showcased their unique perspectives and initiatives, highlighting the importance of youth engagement in prevention efforts. Their participation not only amplified the voices of young leaders but also reinforced our commitment to empowering youth in the fight against substance misuse and promoting healthier communities.

JUN
CONTINUED

LEAD APPALACHIA

WILKESBORO, NC

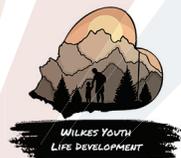


DURING LEAD APPALACHIA, OUR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION, ENGAGEMENT, AND ADVOCACY, FOSTERING HOLISTIC WELL-BEING AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.

We believe that by equipping young leaders with knowledge and skills, we can inspire them to take action and effect positive change in their communities. Our focus on personal growth and collective responsibility aims to create a brighter future for all, ensuring that the voices of youth are heard and valued in the ongoing conversation about community development.

Lead Appalachia is an innovative NC Teen Leadership Conference that offers a transformative four-day experience aimed at inspiring, educating, and empowering youth from across the state. Set against the stunning backdrop of the Appalachian Mountains, this conference serves as a gateway for young leaders to discover and refine the essential skills needed for success. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions on critical issues, including workforce development, mental health, and substance use prevention, equipping them with the tools to make a positive impact in their communities.

MADE POSSIBLE BY:



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services





65 STUDENTS



10 ADULT LEADERS



ACROSS 13 NC COUNTIES



This year, Lead Appalachia welcomed 65 youth and 10 adults from 13 counties across North Carolina. Participants engaged in a variety of training sessions focused on substance use prevention, mental health advocacy, and workforce development tailored for their age group. The impact of their participation extended beyond the conference; the youth left a lasting mark in Wilkes County by partnering with Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership to create a vibrant mural that continues to enhance our community. This collaborative project not only beautifies the area but also symbolizes the commitment of young leaders to making a positive difference.

JUL
2024

PEACH FESTIVAL

WILKESBORO, NC



Our Teen Action Council utilizes the Peach Festival to hand out medication lock boxes. This year we handed out 24 medication lock boxes in our community. These medication lock boxes will be used in homes for safe medication storage.

CADCA MID-YEAR

CHICAGO, IL - THE HILTON CHICAGO

Our first experience attending CADCA's Mid-Year Training Institute was not what we expected. We headed to the airport along with four of our youth and our flight was cancelled, with no other same-day flights going to the O'Hare Airport available. We were devastated to say the least. After a long day of travel, Luke and Jacky Nestor, the Vice President of our Teen Action Council, finally made it to Chicago and Luke was able to give his presentation at the event! He spoke about the importance of youth engagement to over 400 people from across the country!





AUG
2024

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY 8/31

CAROLINA WEST WIRELESS COMMUNITY COMMONS • WILKESBORO, NC

The Teen Action Council proudly participated in Overdose Awareness Day, an annual event hosted by Wilkes Recovery Revolution. At this important gathering, our teens actively engaged with the community by live streaming the event and distributing medication lock boxes to promote safe storage practices. Their involvement in this event highlights our commitment to raising awareness about substance misuse and supporting efforts to prevent overdose in our community. It was an impactful day dedicated to honoring those affected by overdose and advocating for healthier choices.

SEPT
2024

MEND THE HILLS

CAROLINA WEST WIRELESS COMMUNITY COMMONS • WILKESBORO, NC

The Teen Action Council attended this annual recovery festival hosted by Wilkes Recovery Revolution, where we actively contributed to the event's success. We sold refreshing lemonade to festivalgoers while also distributing medication lock boxes to promote safe storage practices. Our participation not only helped raise awareness about substance misuse but also reinforced our commitment to supporting recovery in the community. It was a rewarding experience to connect with others and contribute to a cause that is so vital to our community's health and well-being.



OCT
2024

HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF / CLEANUP EFFORTS THROUGHOUT WILKES AND WESTERN NC



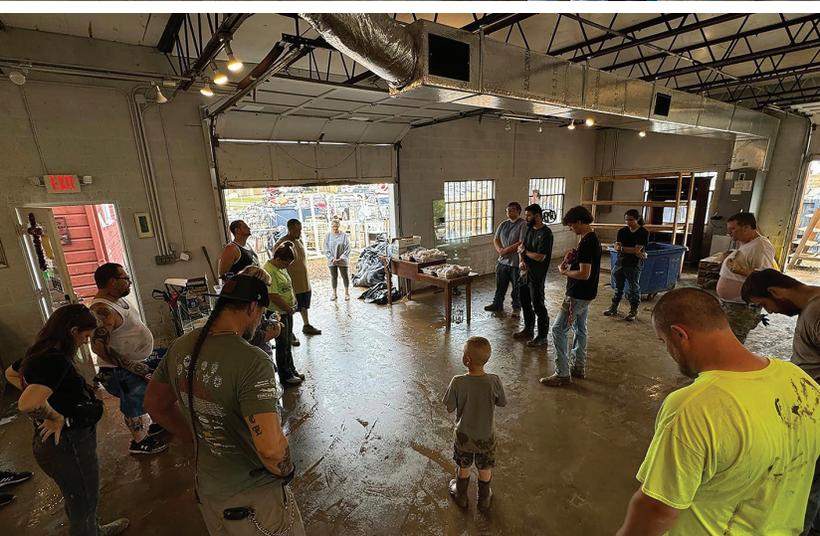
This disaster has been a whirlwind. Our youth, working closely with Board Member Thomas Salley, have organized donations, loaded supplies onto the WYLD trailer, and delivered them to nearly every county in Western North Carolina affected by the storm. The Teen Action Council has always been passionate about a strong community, and these relief efforts have truly strengthened that sense of unity.





IT'S BEEN A
WYLD YEAR!

WYLD IS COMMITTED
TO PRIORITIZING OUR
EFFORTS TOWARDS
HURRICANE HELENE
RELIEF FOR AS LONG
AS IT TAKES TO REBUILD
THE COMMUNITIES
THAT SURROUND US.



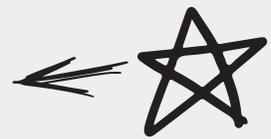
OUR PROGRAMS

TEEN ACTION COUNCIL

The Teen Action Council (TAC) is a youth-led, adult-guided coalition that strives to create youth connections, provide community outreach, and support youth advocacy. TAC youth work together as a team to plan and implement activities that help educate their peers in hopes to prevent substance misuse and mental health challenges.

MISSION GOAL:

LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY.



TEEN ACTION COUNCIL LEADERSHIP BOARD

ALICIA ROBERTS

President

JACKY NESTOR

Vice President

KELLY TA

Secretary

ASHLAND PORTER

Treasurer



TEEN ACTION COUNCIL ADULT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chief Tommy Rhodes

Wilkesboro Police Department

Kelly Shumate

Bridal Traditions
Wedding & Prom Attire

Taylor Stanley

Wilkes County
Health Department

Amber Combs

Wilkes County Public Library

Amber Dixon

Western Youth Network

Cara Teague

Wilkes Harm Reduction Collective

Trevor Royall

Fishing Creek Arbor
Baptist Church

Haley Bell

Our House / Child Abuse
Prevention Team

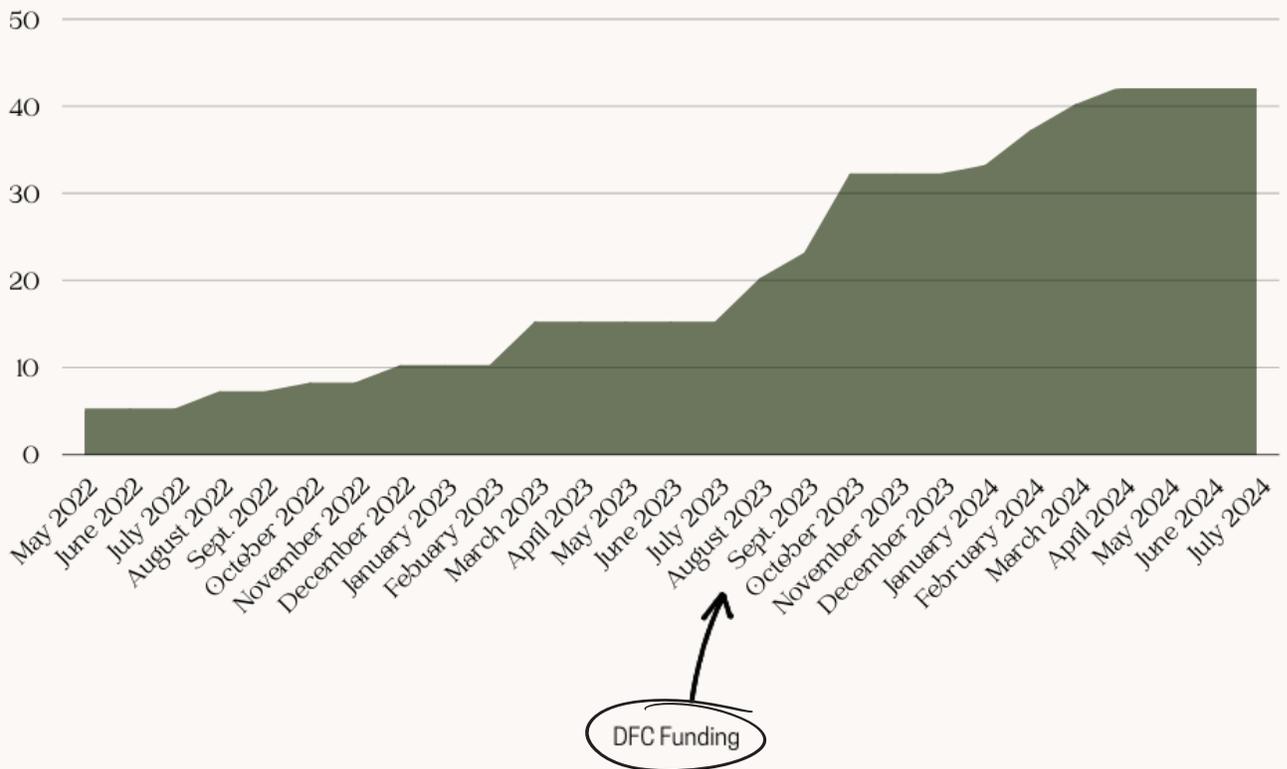
Amanda Hooper

Wilkes Recovery Revolution

Taylor Berry

Town of North Wilkesboro

TEEN ACTION COUNCIL GROWTH



TAC ACCOMPLISHES THEIR MISSION BY:

- ✓ **GIVING YOUTH A VOICE**
- ✓ **PROVIDING YOUTH AN OUTLET**
- ✓ **SHOWING YOUTH THEIR REASON**

"TAC HAS HELPED ME BECOME A MORE ACTIVE MEMBER IN MY COMMUNITY. THIS GROUP HAS ALSO TAUGHT ME THE IMPORTANCE OF DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND WAYS TO IMPLEMENT SAFE AND BENEFICIAL HABITS, SOMETHING ALL TEENS DESERVE A CHANCE TO KNOW."

- JACKY NESTOR

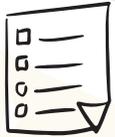


TEEN ACTION COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

The Teen Action Council's highly anticipated 2024 Back-to-School Bash was our biggest event yet! These incredible teens worked tirelessly to serve over 500 students in Wilkes County, ensuring they have the tools they needed for a successful school year. This year, we welcomed several new community partners who generously provided backpacks, hygiene supplies, and even FREE haircuts! Three talented cosmetologists joined forces to offer over 50 free haircuts to youth, helping them feel confident as they head back to school. We couldn't have achieved this impact without the support of more than ten amazing community partners who came alongside us to make this event a success!



DIAPER DRIVE

Alicia Roberts, a senior at Wilkes Early College High School, organized a successful Diaper Drive as part of her senior project, benefiting The Child Abuse Prevention Team / Our House, with support from Wilkes Youth Life Development. To increase community involvement, she created a friendly competition between the North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro Police Departments, with the losing chief agreeing to be dunked in a dunking booth at a future event. The drive ran through July, and on August 1st, a total of 20,592 diapers had been collected. North Wilkesboro Police Department won the competition by donating 10,545 diapers, narrowly defeating Wilkesboro Police Department's total collection of 10,047 diapers.

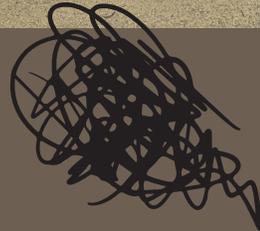


LEMONADE STAND

The Lemonade Stand was a fundraising idea brought to us by the members of our Teen Action Council. They wanted to start this initiative as a way to collect funds for doing fun things in our community. While our grant funding can help cover the cost of substance use prevention related activities, it cannot be used for things like t-shirts, snacks and fun outings for our youth! Our Teen Action Council members have worked very hard to bring in funding from their lemonade stand, so we try to treat and reward them as much as we can!

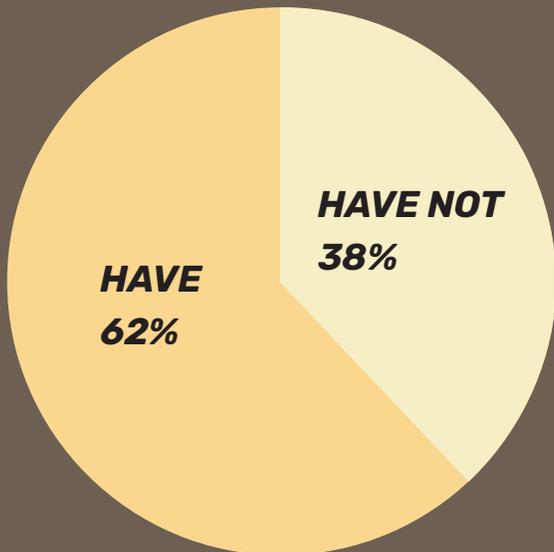


IMPACTFUL FINDINGS

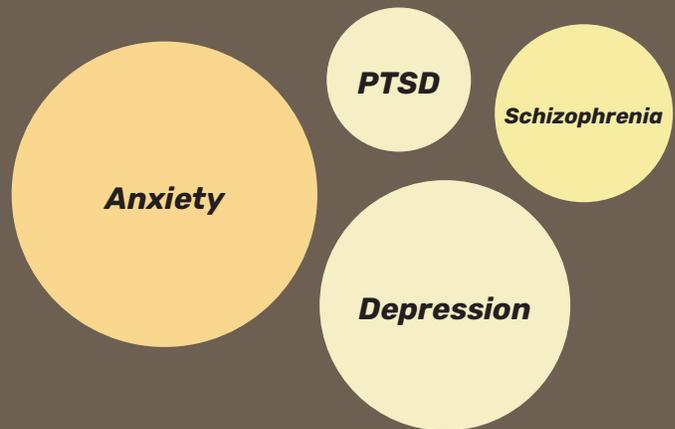


MENTAL HEALTH FOCUS GROUP REPORT: JULY 2024

Percentage of youth in grades 6 - 12 indicating that they have or have not experienced social exclusion or bullying.



Most commonly perceived mental health illnesses among youth, by adults:



THREE OUT OF FIVE youth feel that adults overlook their emotions.

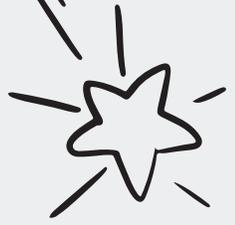


THREE OUT OF FIVE youth struggle to get to sleep because of worry or stress.



SWEET DREAMS OF WILKES

Sweet Dreams of Wilkes is a program, led by the TAC, that provides beds for youth in Wilkes County. Each child also receives 2-3 books. The goal of this program is to get children off the floor and in their own bed. A restorative night's sleep serves as a protective factor for many things! Our youth team delivers these items with joy, joined by adult leaders, fostering unity and compassion. Together, we are sowing hope and resilience, one bedtime story at a time.



MISSION GOAL:

GIVING KIDS THE REST THEY DESERVE.



After becoming involved with the Sweet Dreams of Wilkes program in December 2023, and raising over \$5,000 in funds and supplies, the Wilkesboro Police Department entrusted WYLD and the Teen Action Council to take over the initiative. Determined to expand its reach and impact, WYLD set out to support more children in need. Since adopting the program, we have successfully installed 27 beds for youth of all ages throughout the county.

SHOP OUR WALMART
REGISTRY HERE



"IT HAS SHOWN ME A WAY I CAN BETTER HELP THOSE AROUND ME."

"IT HAS HELPED ME GAIN A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON MENTAL HEALTH."

"THIS IS AN AMAZING PROGRAM AND WILL HELP MANY."

"TAUGHT ME HOW TO COPE BETTER AND HOW NOT TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT ASKING FOR HELP."

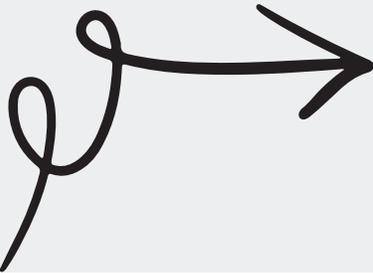
I THINK THIS IS DEFINITELY BENEFICIAL AND SHOULD BE USED MORE OFTEN, ESPECIALLY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

TEEN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID



Teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) is an evidence-based, early intervention course that equips participants with the knowledge and skills to address mental health and substance use challenges.

This year, we proudly began implementing tMHFA in Wilkes County Schools, marking a significant step forward in promoting mental well-being among our youth. By the end of the school year, all 9th-grade students will receive training in this vital program, empowering them to support themselves and their peers.



MISSION GOAL:

TO FOSTER A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN THRIVE AND SEEK HELP WHEN NEEDED.



So far this year...

- ✓ All 9th-graders at Wilkes Central High School have successfully completed the program.
- ✓ 9th-graders at North Wilkes High School have begun the tMHFA course.
- ✓ A total of 301 students have completed the course so far.

MEDICATION LOCK BOX DISTRIBUTION

Safe medication storage in our community is a priority for the Teen Action Council. At most community events that we attend or host we are distributing medication lock boxes. This year, we distributed 150 medication lock boxes in our community.



ONLY 9.3% OF CHILDREN WHO MISUSE PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS SAY THEY GET THEM FROM A STRANGER, A DRUG DEALER OR SOME OTHER WAY.

SOURCE: LOCK YOUR MEDS





UNIQUE YOU

This evidence-based substance abuse prevention curriculum is designed to empower students with essential skills for dealing with their emotions, incorporating healthy living practices, and making informed decisions – all while delivering a clear ‘no use’ message. Since its implementation in 1970, this program has successfully reached at-risk students in various settings, including classrooms and after school programs.

Over the course of eight sessions these amazing kids were able to learn skills that will help them be confident, kind and smart about their decisions. Each day, they all showed up excited and eager to learn about the next lesson.



MISSION GOAL:
BY FOSTERING RESILIENCE AND CONFIDENCE,
WE AIM TO EQUIP YOUNG LEARNERS WITH
THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO RESIST DRUGS
AND LEAD HEALTHY LIVES.

INVESTORS

FOR WILKES COUNTY YOUTH

YOUTH SUSTAINER (\$10,000 - \$19,999)

Anonymous Donor

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Luke & Montana Jarvis
The Health Foundation, Inc
The Leonard G. Herring Family Foundation
Wilkesboro Tourism Development Authority

YOUTH PROMISE (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC
Bridal Traditions
Fishing Creek Arbor Baptist Church
Gary & Margo Foster
Mark & Jodi Jarvis
O.D.D. Roofing LLC
Randy Marion Chevrolet Buick GMC
of West Jefferson
Randy Marion Ford of West Jefferson
The Print Shop
Town of North Wilkesboro
Wilkes Community College Foundation
Wilkesboro Walmart #1290
Zack & April Murray

YOUTH FRIEND (\$1 - \$999)

Andrew & Casey Palmer
Blue Ridge Ear, Nose and Throat, INC
Bryan & Abby Terry
Chris & Kelly Shumate
Chuck Taylor
Clinton & Angela Reins
David & Chasidi Wellborn
David & Rachel Willard

David's Car Care Center, Inc
Denise Greene
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Gary & Susan Cogdill
GDL Property Management Inc
Greg & Billie Jean Johnston
Holly Minton
Innovative Pet Care, Inc
Jamie & Amy Redies
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Kyle Michaud
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Matt Matthews State Farm Insurance
Michael Cooper
Michael Miller
Mike Perkins
PayPal Giving Fund
Ray Dancy
Rebekah Gardner
Suzanne Moore
Thomas & Heather Salley
Whimsical Nook LLC
Wilkes Communications



GRANTS & PARTNERS

CDC: Drug Free
Communities
\$125,000

NC DHHS: SOR III
\$100,000

Community Impact NC:
Coalition Sustainability
Funding
\$75,000

Western Youth
Network: SYNAR
\$75,000

NC DHHS: SPF Rx
\$32,000

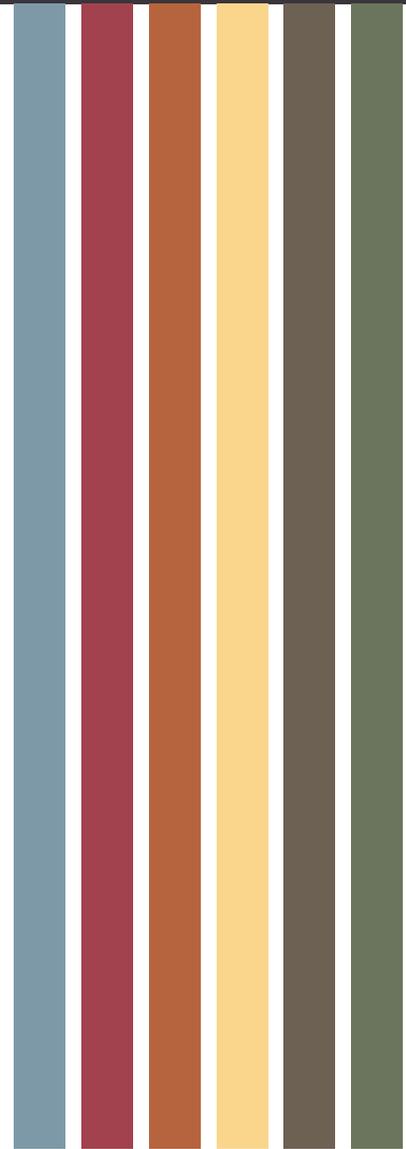
Speedway
Children Charities
\$20,000

The Health Foundation:
Challenge Grant
\$5,000

Wilkes County Schools:
T3LC
\$2,250

Wilkes Community
Foundation
\$500

- Almost on The Lake
- Apothalyptic
- Appalachian Regional Library
- Bridal Traditions
Wedding & Prom Attire
- Brushy Mountain Crossfit
- Charlotte Motor Speedway
- Community Impact NC
- Cook's Sports
- Crooked Creek Highlands
- Crossroads Harley Davidson
- Dom Bakeries
- Dooley's Tavern & Grill
- Downtown North Wilkesboro
Partnership
- Fishing Creek Arbor
Baptist Church
- Gregory Barbering
Barbershop
- Ivy Ridge Traditions
- Leatherwood Mountains
- Liberty Theatre
- Lueur Naturelle
- Mama Tried Ink
- Merle's
- North Wilkesboro
Police Department
- Our House
- Perry Lowe Orchards
- Pixels on Paper Photography



YOUR INVESTMENT IS A VITAL TOUCH POINT IN OUR MISSION, HELPING US MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT IN OUR WILKES COMMUNITY. WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR COMMITMENT AND PARTNERSHIP.



WHAT KIND OF WYLD THINGS ARE WE GETTING INTO NEXT?



INTRODUCING...

“**THE CHANGE WAGON**”

A COMMUNITY FOOD TRUCK INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW:

The Change Wagon is a “pay-as-you-can” food truck initiative designed to address food insecurity in Wilkes County by providing nutritious, affordable meals to all, regardless of financial ability. This program will extend Wilkes Youth Life Development’s mission of building healthy relationships, creating supportive environments, and offering meaningful experiences for youth and the community. In addition to delivering healthy food, The Change Wagon will also serve as a platform for youth workforce development.

A WYLD NEW INITIATIVE ROOTED IN CHANGE!



PROGRAM GOALS:

- ✓ **TACKLE FOOD INSECURITY:**
The Change Wagon aims to eliminate geographical and financial barriers to accessing nutritious meals. The food truck will visit different locations across Wilkes County, including under served areas, ensuring everyone has access to high-quality meals.
- ✓ **"PAY-AS-YOU-CAN" MODEL:**
Those who can afford to pay for their meals will help sustain the initiative, while others will be able to receive meals at little or no cost. This pricing model helps create a sense of dignity, community, and mutual support.
- ✓ **YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:**
A key focus of The Change Wagon is youth employment and life skills development.
- ✓ **JOB SKILLS TRAINING:**
Youth employees will receive hands-on experience in food service, including food preparation, customer service, and logistics. These 'change makers' will also earn ServSafe certifications and receive customer service training from Goodwill Career Center and NCWorks.
- ✓ **LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT:**
The Positive Action curriculum will support youth in developing key life skills such as decision-making, communication, and self-confidence. This holistic approach empowers youth to achieve their personal and professional goals.
- ✓ **COMMUNITY IMPACT:**
The Change Wagon will serve not only as a source of nourishment but also as a beacon of hope and opportunity. It embodies the pursuit of balanced nutrition, creating healthier lifestyles and paving the way for a brighter, stronger future.



**WILKES YOUTH
LIFE DEVELOPMENT**



**MAKE YOUR INVESTMENT
IN WYLD HERE!**



**HELP US MAKE A
WYLD DIFFERENCE
IN WILKES TODAY.**

**P.O. BOX 1112 • MORAVIAN FALLS, NC 28654
INFO@WILKESYOUTH.ORG**