Your donations made it possible for us to change the lives of 32,973 people in Wilkes last year.



Provided a total of 23,561 people with crisis and basic need services. This included food, preventing eviction from homes, preventing electricity from being turned off, provided fuel to warm homes, provided assistance for house fires. and shelter for the homeless.



Provided a total of 2,173 people with tutoring, financial/rise out of poverty classes, parenting classes, family advocacy, teaching adults to read, work with our disabled citizens and prison inmates.



Provided a total of 7,239 people with Hospice care, a safe place for seniors to stay during the day while their caregivers work, respite care and mental health counseling for students and adults.

## Have you ever thought about how poverty effects our community?

The poverty rate in Wilkes in 21%, 13,819 people are living in poverty. Over 36% are children. Wilkes County ranks 71<sup>st</sup> (1st being the lowest) out of 100 counties in NC.

#### Some samples of how poverty effects all of us:

Affects children more than any other age group, impoverished children are more likely to have low earnings as adults and are somewhat more likely to engage in crime and drugs.

A large number of impoverished children do not complete high school, which limits future economic success. A more educated individual is more likely to participate in the job market, to have a job, to be paid more and less likely to be unemployed.

We may see a rise in economic productivity by ensuring that children from low-income backgrounds have equitable access and are motivated to stay in school.

Poverty increases the likelihood of developing conditions that are expensive to treat such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Therefore, reducing poverty not only cultivates a healthy economy but it can also create a physically healthier society.



# Together, We Can Change the Local Story





# of Wilkes County

910 C Street North Wilkesboro, NC 28659 336-651-7800







#### WHY INVEST IN UNITED WAY?

#### We are local

Dollars raised in our community STAY in our community to build a better place for all of us.

## United Way does what no one else can do alone.

We mobilize:

**Every Resource** 

**Every Partner** 

**Every Voice** 

To tackle the toughest issues

#### Will My Gift Stay in the Community?

YES. United Way of Wilkes only invests in local programs and services that are best in class and have demonstrated meaningful impact, lasting results, and outcomes.

#### **PLANNED GIVING**

You may be looking for a way to make a significant gift to help further our mission. A bequest is a gift made through your will or trust. It is one of the most popular and flexible ways that you can support our cause. You leave a lasting legacy to be remembered. Please consider United Way of Wilkes County as a beneficiary in your will and when you do please let us know.

Secure Online Giving available at www.uwwilkes.org or Scan QR Code



#### **Local Story Has Been Changed**

After getting married my husband and I were excited to be moving into a nicer place to live; however soon after the move our marriage started to struggle. I feared the worst and worked hard to keep our family together. This was a very difficult time for me and our family. We eventually reached the point that we could not keep it all together and what was broken could not be fixed.

Scared and lost I began to do research and try to figure out what options I may have.
I found an application for Wilkes Circles of Care, filled it out and continued to look for other options. Circles of Care contacted me and helped me start the process of finding a place for me to rent and we ended up moving in November of that year.

Through Circles of Care and the support of others I have been able to work, attend classes at Wilkes Community College, and continue to move in a positive direction.

I am proud to say that I recently purchased a home for me and my children, and we have been able to buy a dependable car that I can rely on. It has not been an easy journey but looking back at the challenges I faced during these times I feel like I was able to grow as a person.

I depended on my faith and support around me to get through difficult times.

I have continued to move forward.

I am now a single mom raising two children while working full time, going to school, and focusing on my future.

Suzanne

#### Together, We Can Change the Local Story

#### Delivering meals to our seniors



### Providing for the homeless



## **United Way Community Impact Initiatives**

- •2-1-1 (2021 received 160,937 calls in NC)
- Stuff the Bus
- •Free tax preparation myfreetaxes.com
- Family Wise/Single Care Prescription Card