



Communities Supporting Schools
Of Wayne County, Inc.

Annual Report

2020-2021 Academic Year

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Message from the Executive Director

The mission of Communities Supporting Schools is to provide opportunities for students to stay in school, graduate, and be successful in life. Communities Supporting Schools is dedicated to the mission of serving the youth in this community- one day at a time. In the non-profit sector everything NEEDS to be measured in an effort to determine IMPACT. However, we have learned that some things simply can't be measured, no matter how hard one tries. Because of the work that we do, providing additional "layers of support" to our youth, it may be years before progress can really be measured. The immediate impact may simply be that a student begins to read with enthusiasm and learns to love coming to school. Another immediate result of our work may be that a student who is chronically absent may attend school without missing days. It is the "little things" that often are the "big things" in our work. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." This quote, by Nelson Mandela, is one of my favorites. If we can teach our youth to value education, then we can help them change their world.

Since March 2020, when our world was turned upside down, CSS of Wayne has continued to serve our youth. Although the services that we provided last year looked a bit different, our staff NEVER stopped working! During the 2020-2021 school year, we offered services in new formats. We learned about "Google Meets" as a platform at the school level and even trained reading volunteers to continue working with students in reading. We offered virtual "sentencing circles" on the Restorative Justice side of the program and learned that this practice actually offered some components that are more valuable in working with our youth than the traditional teen court option. We learned that there are long-lasting effects of COVID, and that our youth missed valuable "learning time," even though we offered remote learning opportunities. Another major lesson learned was the importance of having educators and "caring adults" who support our students- every day- as they learn and grow.

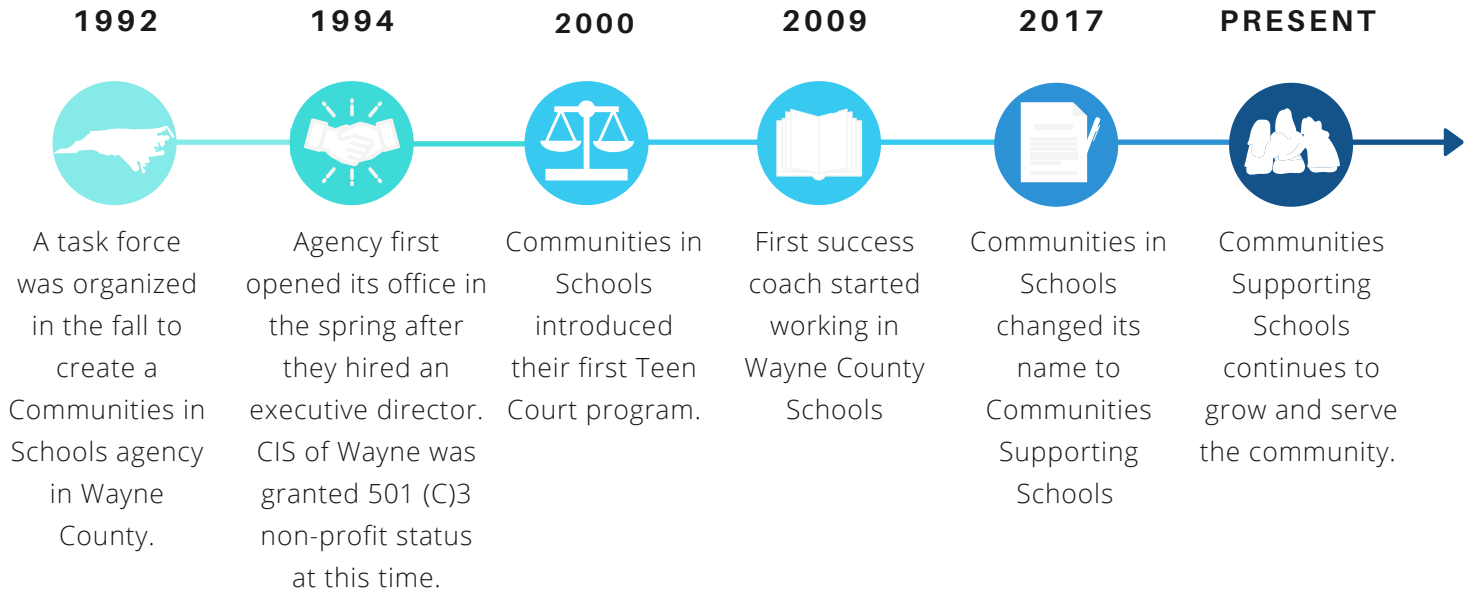
Our work is definitely cut out for us as we move through this school year. However, the staff at CSS of Wayne is committed to doing not only good work- but great work! We have a community that is supportive and engaged, with a number of dedicated volunteers who are willing to serve.



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Our History



2020-2021 Staff Changes

As the 2020-2021 academic year began, there were some staff changes in the restorative justice program and in the main office at Communities Supporting Schools. BreAnna VanHook-Battle, teen court/community service director for three years, resigned from CSS of Wayne in August 2020 to take a position with Legal Aid in Raleigh. Barbara Nelson, a juvenile court attorney and formerly a CSS of Wayne teen court volunteer, joined our team to be the restorative justice director. In September 2020, Aleisha Santos, a criminal justice major who had also a teen court volunteer, joined the office as the part-time Restorative Justice Assistant. In January of 2021, Aleisha became a full-time employee, taking over some responsibilities as Gene Jackson retired in December of 2020. Gene had served CSS of Wayne at Southern Wayne High School as a success coach since 2013. Gene had not only worked as a success coach, but had monitored and tracked data, maintained the website, and created the CSS of Wayne newsletters. In the fall of 2021, CSS of Wayne welcomed two new elementary success coaches. Nancy Lancaster joined the CSS team at Brogden Primary School and Wendy Hooks joined at Carver Elementary School. With these changes, CSS of Wayne has continued to grow in new directions.



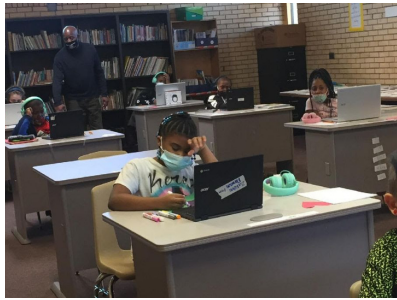
2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 **Salesforce Consultant Dawn Amory helped to develop a system that would provide data to more accurately measure the impact of the work that we do.**
- 2 **Kriquette's Kidz: Serving students and families in the community, the Kriquette's Kidz program assisted over 400 children. This program will become a NEW non-profit in Juary 2022 in an effort to serve more families in the community**
- 3 **Fundraisers: Two successful fundraisers were held last year.**
 - A "Virtual Have A Heart for Kids Gala" on March 26 featured local talent to raise money to support CSS of Wayne
 - "Spritzers, Cake & Karaoke" was held on June 22 at the Terrace Room as a women's event.
- 4 **New Community Partnerships**
- 5 **Virtual School Supply Drive**
- 6 **Adition of a "school supply closet" centrally located for school social workers**
- 7 **Volunteers continued to work with students "virtually"**
- 8 **Helped to plan and participated in the "State of the Child Conference" in March**
- 9 **Provided support for the "Month of the Military Child" in April**
- 10 **Provided support for "Child Abuse Awareness" in April**
- 11 **Successfully operated programs in eight schools with success coaches**
- 12 **Addition of two new elementary reading programs, Brogden Primary and Carver Elementary School.**



SPRITZERS, CAKE & KARAOKE

JUNE 22, 2021



VIRTUAL LEARNING

Success Coach Greg Batts assists students in virtual learning while at the Boys and Girls Club of Wayne County, in Goldsboro.



MOTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

APRIL 2021



KRIQUETTE'S KIDZ

DECEMBER 2020

Did you know....

200+

Donors contributed to Communities Supporting Schools from 2020-2021

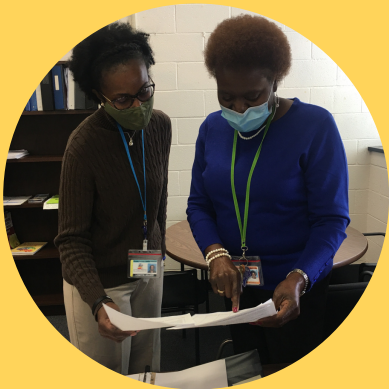
Success Coaches

Greg Batts- Brogden Middle
Debbie Brantham- Grantham Middle
Robin DeVeaux- Carver Heights Elementary
Wendy Hooks- Carver Elementary
Mary Kay James- Dillard Middle
Nancy Lancaster- Brogden Primary
Gale Lewis- Carver Heights Elementary
Terri McKay- Mount Olive Middle
Anne Millington- Goldsboro
Veda McNair- Spring Creek
Sharon Patterson- Southern Wayne High

6k

Success Coach
Working Hours

Q: WHATS ONE THING A STUDENT TAUGHT YOU?



"The one thing that students have taught me this year is something that I have always known. Children love school and they want to do well in school. They want to make people proud of them and they want to be successful. But in an adult world that is full of contradictions and mixed messaging, they sometimes get lost in all the craziness. They are resilient and they will (can) bounce back, especially with an agency like Communities Supporting School providing opportunities"

-Mary Kay James, Success Coach at Dillard Middle School

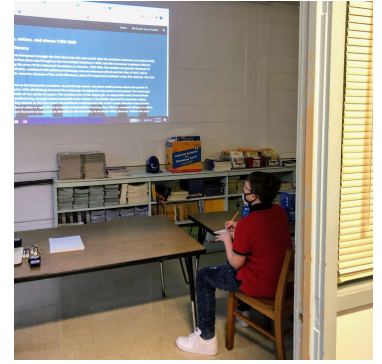
Providing Support During COVID-19:

- Provided moral support to students, teachers, administrators, school social workers and school counselors, through phone, text, email, Zoom and Google Meets.
- Participated in staff meetings
- Mailed cards and care packages to students during the holidays
- Routinely checked on students who had to quarantine
- Participated in webinars to learn skills to help students cope with feelings of isolation and engage them in healthy conversations



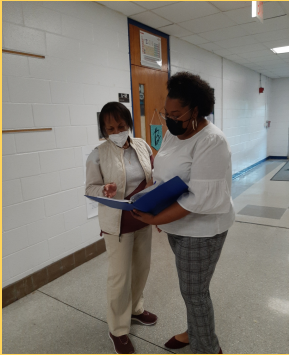
MT. OLIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Success Coach Terri McKay shows off her new social distancing set-up. Mount Olive teachers added Terri as an observer in their Canvas classrooms and she pulls up assignments that the students need to work on and projects them on the wall. This allows the students to work without her sitting right next to them working on their laptops. Terri says "It's working great and I credit our curriculum coordinator for giving me the idea!"



SPRING CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

When students are in trouble, the classroom teacher and Success Coach, Veda McNair, discuss the students progress. They talk about how to help the students resolve the problem either through better attendance, improved behavior and greater class participation. Then they both talk with the student and the parent on solutions. It's a partnership!



CARVER HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY GARDEN PROJECT

A \$500 grant from United Way to Carver Heights Elementary School sparked a massive community effort to plan, prepare, and plant six gardens at the school. The statement "Many hands make light work" was certainly meant for a day like April 14th, 2021 when over 50 volunteers showed up for our Garden Workday. Tireless volunteers from SJAFB, United Way, Goldsboro High School graduates, and Goldsboro Housing Authority pitched in to help clean out weeds, fill soil and compost in the beds, and plant hundreds of vegetables and flowers.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM AT GOLDSBORO HIGH

The support that Success Coaches provides goes beyond what happens in the classroom. Success Coach, Anne Millington reflects on a time that she was able to take a December graduate to Wayne Community College. Anne explains "I set up a meeting with a counselor and was able to have the student complete his WCC application, start his FAFSA and be accepted into the college that day. Many thanks to the counselor who took this student under his wing and helped him meet his advisor and select classes."





SOUTHERN WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL

In addition to classroom support, Success Coaches also provided one-on-one support for students. In the photo on the left, Success Coach Sharon Patterson sits down with a student to go over their grades for the semester.

GRANTHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Success Coach, Debbie Brantham working with a group of students for their Battle of The Books contest. Debbie says "We've learned to never take face-to-face teaching for granted, it is a necessary element in order to succeed in school."



Our Impact

1,200

Hours of service provided to the Boys and Girls Club of Wayne County, Goldsboro NC.

75

Students served at the Boys and Girls Club of Wayne County, NC.



\$25,530

Value of Volunteer Hours

1 volunteer hour= \$23.00/hour of pay

Reading Buddy Program	\$15,893 value
Carver Heights Garden	\$5,290 value
Restorative Justice Program	\$4,347 value

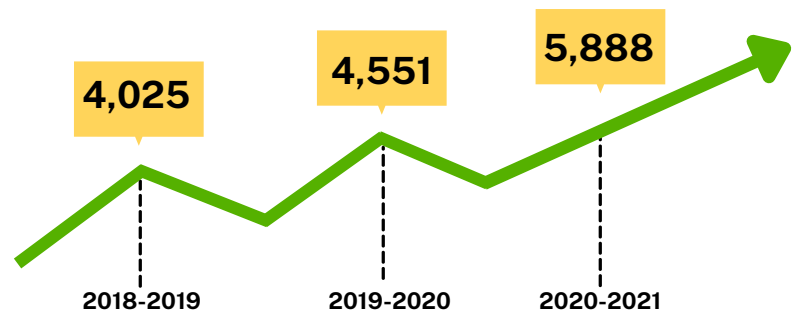


Schoolwide Activities & Services

\$409,638.58

Total Grants Awarded

Individual & Business Donations	\$43,842.38
JCPC Funded Programs	\$136,287.00
United Way (Teen Court) funding	\$14,929.32
Kriquette's Kidz Income	\$44,820.43
School Supply Donations	\$32,500.00



Restorative Justice Training

Attorney Jon Powell is a law professor at Campbell University in Raleigh, NC, and serves as the director of the Restorative Justice Clinic. Attorney Powell conducted a two-day Restorative Justice training for the CSS Restorative Justice Program, its volunteers, and sister organizations. Read below to learn about this training.

"Wayne County Communities in Schools has embraced Restorative Justice and the practices that go along with it. I had the privilege recently to sit for two days with about fifteen folks from Wayne County who work with young people on the daily. They gave of their time to learn about the Restorative tool called Circle Process. They gave of their time because they care about kids and community. They care about becoming a bridge that connects and not a bridge that divides. I was so encouraged to know that so many people in Wayne County care so deeply about their young people because they know that even though we are supposed to have been created equal, we don't always treat each other that way. Circle process is a way to build relationship, to see each other as brothers and sisters and to work to support all people. It is a way to become a bridge that connects and not a bridge that divides."



Director,
Campbell University Restorative Justice Clinic



Restorative Justice Field Trips

In April the CSS Restorative Justice Program staff took a group of students to Wilmington to tour UNCW. We considered this an investment in the youth of Wayne County. Our aim was to help them to envision life after high school and to gather the information they need to take the next steps. With each stop along the tour and with each question asked, one could see the realm of possibility grow wider and wider in their eyes, and that's what it's all about.



"THIS WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE FOR MY DAUGHTER. SHE CAME HOME AND IMMEDIATELY STARTED TALKING ABOUT THE TRIP!!! THIS NOT ONLY GOT HER OUT OF HER COMFORT ZONE, BUT IT HAS HER THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE WITH EXCITEMENT."

-WAYNE COUNTY SCHOOL PARENT

Community Service Program

100%

of youth demonstrated accountability by actively participating in restitution/community service activities.

100%

of youth had no new adjudications for a complaint with an offense date after the admission date

97%

of youth successfully or satisfactorily complete services as intended by the program design/service plan.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kriquette Davis, Board Chair
Cristy Barnes-Williams, Board Vice-Chair
Tiffany Creech, Secretary
Beverly Wallace-Wiggins, Treasurer
Ken Derksen
Donna Best
Kim Copeland
Renita Allen Dawson
Jennifer Collins
Julie Beck
Shannon Weeks
D'Leeshia Lee
Pam Stokes
Justin Minshew
Ryan Barbato

STAFF




Selena Bennett, Executive Director
Barbara Nelson, Restorative Justice Program Director
Aleisha Santos, Program Assistant
Anne Millington, Success Coach
Debbie Brantham, Success Coach
Gale Lewis, Success Coach
Greg Batts, Success Coach
Mary Kay James, Success Coach
Nancy Lancaster, Success Coach
Robin DeVeaux, Success Coach
Sharon Patterson, Success Coach
Terri McKay, Success Coach
Veda McNair, Success Coach
Wendy Hooks, Success Coach



We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County

Contact

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