



Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County

Annual Report 2022-2023



Director's Message



It is so hard to believe that we are at the end of the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year. As we reflect on the last year, we are so THANKFUL to be able to work in this community and to continue to serve our youth. CSS is constantly seeking new ways to better serve and to help students experience success- today and in the future!

Here are a few highlights from the past school year:

- Youth were served throughout the year in ten schools (three elementary schools, four middle schools, and three high schools weekly).
- Three Restorative Justice Programs provided services to our youth (accountability circles, community service, and mediation).
- We have launched ArtXecute – our newest initiative, and we are so excited to showcase “Moe’s Town” on December 8 & 9 at the Moffatt Auditorium at Wayne Community College.
- Our volunteer database continues to grow in our three elementary programs.
- The CSS staff consists of fifteen dedicated professionals who work with students to help them become more successful!
- CSS has great partnerships with other non-profits and businesses in this community.
- 6,000 students were served through schoolwide services
- 346 individual students were served last year.
- 4,426 total school hours were spent providing services to our schools.
- The estimated volunteer value totaled \$56,334 in all programs. (Adult volunteer value is calculated at \$29,86 an hour).
- CSS of Wayne was chosen as one of five non-profits in eastern North Carolina to work with the Institute for Emerging Issues through North Carolina State University in a two year program. This work has just been completed and included a strategic plan and the production of today’s video by Big Blue Couch Media/Casey Mozingo! We also participated in a podcast and in newsletters by IEI.
- In April 2023, CSS received a Mission Development Grant through the NCSECU Foundation. This grant allowed CSS the opportunity to study fundraising and marketing efforts! We have worked with Michael Lowder from Moss & Ross Consulting and are currently implanting new strategies!
- CSS is appreciative of all of its partners, but especially of Wayne County Public Schools. The partnership and collaborative working relationship with our school system makes this work possible.

You can read through our report and find more data that supports the work that CSS of Wayne does- every day! Although we know how important data is, we also know that much of the work that we do does not show immediate results. We can quickly see test results that indicate improvement in academics, behavior, and attendance. We easily see the impact of dedicated, caring adults working with our students either as a teacher, a volunteer, or a mentor. What we do NOT see quickly is the impact that this work will have on the future of a student.

CSS provides those “additional layers of support” in an effort to help a student learn, grow, and thrive. “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.

Selena J. Bennet

Selena Bennet

Executive Director of Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County, Inc.

Who We Are

The mission of Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County is to provide opportunities for students to stay in school, graduate and be successful in life.

CSS Receives County Wide Support from

- ★ CSS Staff
- ★ CSS Board of Directors
- ★ Wayne County Public Schools
- ★ Law Enforcement
- ★ Private Business
- ★ United Way
- ★ Civic Organizations
- ★ Faith-based Organizations
- ★ Individual Donors
- ★ University of Mt. Olive
- ★ Wayne Community College

Restorative Justice Program

Teen Court | Community Service | ArtXecute

The Restorative Justice Program emphasizes an alternative dispute resolution model where the emphasis is not just on punishing youth offenders, but on giving victims a voice, restoring trust with the community, and redirecting youth.

Success Coaches

Success Coaches serve at selected elementary, middle and high schools focusing on drop out prevention. The Success Coaches will help to identify students in need of additional support and at risk of dropping out.

The Coaches work closely with students to achieve academic success and stay on track to graduate with their peers. Success Coaches use a variety of strategies, intervention programs and resources to promote student success and ensure graduation.



6,000

students served through
schoolwide services

4,426

total school service hours

Elementary: **1711**

Middle: **1898**

High School: **817**

346

individual students "case
managed"

Community Spotlight: Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County connects the dots for student success

May 2, 2022 | Kirsten Chang | 2-min. read



Scan here to read the full article

Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County was chosen by the Institute of Emerging Issues as part of the 2022 Emerging Issues Forum on educational attainment in NC. The full article can be found on IEI's website.

Fundraisers

\$54,437 monetary donations received

\$44,131 In-Kind donations of goods and services

\$13,341 in gift cards and services provided to schools



Mission Development Grant

Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County was awarded a \$40,000 Mission Development Grant from the State Employees Credit Union Foundation. Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County board members and representatives from both the foundation and the local SECU branches attended this presentation. Keith Marion, SECU Regional Senior Vice-President, is shown presenting the check to Selena Bennett and Wendy Hooks. CSS is both honored and humbled to be a recipient of this award!

Volunteer Spotlight



When asked recently why I volunteer, I had to ponder on it a bit. My response: I want to make a positive difference in someone's life! I know so many people, even my own father, that because of their efforts have affected positive change for hundreds of lives, maybe even thousands. Sometimes I'm envious, wishing I could do something on a grand scale to make this world better.

But really, it is the simple things, stepping up and saying yes to a need, that can have the greatest, most direct impact. In volunteering as a reading buddy not only am I impacting a life, but I am also developing a real relationship with the young person I am reading with. We giggle together over the funny things, talk about serious things, and I am another adult in my student's life that says, "care and want to listen to what you have to say!" I can point to several of those mentors all along in my life that encouraged me to learn, try new things, and dream big. My hope is to be present with my reading buddy all the way through high school. We've started our 4th year together. The unexpected benefit to volunteering is the positive impact and change in me. I have learned more about the community I live in, and my love is expanded exponentially with every student I serve. Who knows... because I volunteered, one of my students just might have the "grand scale impact" on hundreds or even thousands of lives.

-Lisa Dismore, Reading Buddy

Reading and Lunch Buddy Program

In addition to providing academic support, our elementary schools welcome volunteers to spend time with students during lunch.



CHE Garden Day

This year we had our third annual Garden Day at Carver Heights. We had parents, volunteers from SJAFB, local businesses and agencies, and community members all here for one common goal, to beautify our tranquil space. Each year the work gets lighter and the garden gets better! Thank you Communities Supporting Schools for your support of our school!

Winter Goodson, Ed.D.
Former CHE Principal, 2020-2023



Restorative Justice Program

Teen Court | Community Service | ArtXecute

CSS of Wayne had the opportunity to share our latest project with some of our community leaders and collaborative partners. In January, we premiered our Restorative Justice video, with interview segments from community partners-juvenile court counselors, Sheriff Larry Pierce, school resource officers, volunteers, and staff. This video highlights important work that our team and community partners are doing together in this community.



The “investment” that we make – together- in this community is making a difference. However, we know that we have much more work ahead of us. Please join us as we continue on this journey! To watch the video, please visit our Youtube Channel, @CSSofWayne, or scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.



I cannot imagine my life without the Restorative Justice Program. It plays such a **vital role** in Juvenile Justice. We utilize them for community service, we utilize them for Teen Court, and we utilize them for some mediation services. It's just a **top-notch** program.



Kristie Howell

District 8 Juvenile Chief Court Counselor

120

Adult Volunteer Hours

120

Youth Served

235

Teen Volunteer Hours

SCAN ME 



United Way of
Wayne County



ARTXECUTE



CSS ARTS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The arts provide youth with an opportunity for expression, discovery, and camaraderie. The arts also promote positive values such as diligence, cooperation, and creativity.

ArtXecute is an arts education initiative sponsored by Communities Supporting Schools® is open to all Wayne County students ages 8-18 at no cost.

The mission of ArtXecute is to provide a space for Wayne County youth to create art, build community, and develop confidence through participation in quality arts education.

For more info or to enroll a student in ArtXecute, go to waynecss.my.site.com/s/artxecute or contact Barbara Jones by phone at 919-735-1632 or by email at ArtXecuteWayne@gmail.com.



WWW.WAYNECSS.ORG/ARTXECUTE



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



Dawn Amory
Data Management



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Selena Bennett
Executive Director



Barbara Jones
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Program Director



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Success Coach



Anne Millington
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

A special thanks to Casey Mozingo at Big Blue Couch Media for producing our Success Coach video and capturing these headshots.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Communities Supporting Schools
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