

2023-2024



Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County

# Annual Report







“

**Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”**

”

## Executive Director's Message

It is so hard to believe that we are at the end of the first semester of the 2024-2025 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! This past year was a “tremendous year” in terms of new challenges and new opportunities!

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 and had the first production, “Moe’s Town,” in December at Moffatt Auditorium at Wayne Community College. This production was so successful that we presented it again at the Paramount Theatre in early February.
- Our second production, “The Lion King, Jr.” is scheduled for the Paramount Theatre on January 10, 11, and 12. Vocal and dance classes were offered to students this summer in an effort to begin our work on this production.
- Our volunteer database continues to grow in our elementary reading programs. A fourth program was added at the beginning of this academic year.
- CSS has great partnerships with other non-profits and businesses in this community.
- 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 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.

Any achievements that CSS makes is directly related to the continued assistance that we have received through our “family of support. This support includes our dedicated staff, board members, donors, volunteers, businesses, the faith-based community, and individuals who care about the youth in Wayne County. CSS is so proud to work in a community where such great relationships and partnerships are thriving- all to benefit our youth.

**Selena Bennett**  
Executive Director

Dear Community Members,



**Cristy Barnes-Williams**  
CSS Board Chair

I have had the privilege to be on the Community Supporting Schools Board for the past six years and the Board Chair since 2022. As we reflect on another year of service and growth at Community Supporting Schools in Wayne County, I am filled with gratitude and pride. Together, we have made significant strides in enhancing educational opportunities and fostering a supportive environment for our students and families.

This past year has been a testament to the resilience and dedication of our community and staff. Through collaborative efforts with local schools, businesses, churches, and families, we have implemented innovative programs that address the diverse needs of our students. From mentorship initiatives to community engagement projects, we are committed to ensuring that every child has the tools they need to succeed.

Our volunteers have been instrumental in driving our mission forward. Their passion and commitment have helped us reach more students than ever before, and their stories of impact inspire us all. We are grateful for their hard work and the countless hours they dedicate to our programs.

As we look to the future, we recognize the ongoing challenges in education and community support. However, we are confident that with your continued support, we can rise to meet these challenges head-on. Our mission remains clear: to provide opportunities for students to stay in school, graduate and be successful in life. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our students and building a brighter future for our community.

*Cristy Barnes-Williams*

**Cristy Barnes-Williams**

## About Us

### Our Mission

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.

### Our History

In 1992 a task force was organized to create a Communities in Schools agency in Wayne County. The agency first opened their doors in the spring of 1993 when they hired their first executive director and were granted 501-(c)3 non-profit status. The name eventually changed to Communities Supporting Schools but the mission has stayed the same; serve youth in Wayne County.

### How We Do It

CSS of Wayne provides “wrap around and support” for students in Wayne County. By keeping our eyes on the vision and the mission of our work, strategic partnerships and relationships have been established through the years. The impact of this work is not accomplished by a few people, but by a community of support. Serving our youth requires donors, volunteers, and dedicated staff and board members. The goal is to equip our youth to be successful!

### CSS Receives County Wide Support from...



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

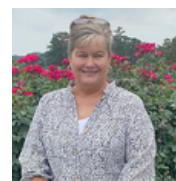
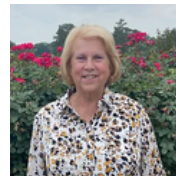
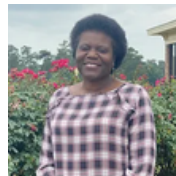
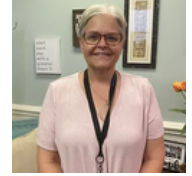
# Success Coaches

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.

## Our Schools

- Carver Heights Elementary
- Carver Elementary School
- Brogden Primary
- North Drive Elementary
- Mt. Olive Middle
- Grantham Middle
- Dillard Middle
- Goldsboro High School
- Spring Creek High School
- Southern Wayne High School



## Reading Buddies

Volunteers from the community volunteer at select schools as Reading Buddies. Reading Buddies engage with students by reading stories aloud. This supports the students learning while building strong connections in the community.

# 670

students served through reading programs

**“Elementary Reading volunteers are priceless! Not only do they serve as expert reading role models, but they can teach so much with just one book! They expose children to new vocabulary, ideas, and concepts. They can use books to take children to places they have never been and expose them to the world. Most importantly, they encourage and inspire children to read more! Reading is fun and it is the foundation to success in life.”**





# Volunteers



Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County is so proud to have three outstanding reading volunteers recognized at the WCPS Volunteer Appreciation Reception. Our amazing volunteers are Phyllis Smith (Brogden Primary), Charles Wright, Jr. (Carver Heights), and Ann- Marie Majeskey (Carver Elementary). These volunteers give of their time every week to serve our students. They have done such great work!



In March, we celebrated our volunteers at The Firehouse. We appreciate every volunteer- who comes out every week- to spend time reading with our students. What better way to give back to this community and to "Pay it Forward!"

# Retirements

Two of our amazing staff members have retired recently. Although we are sad to lose these team members, we are so happy for them to begin the next chapter of their life- "happily retired!"

## Anne Millington



Anne Millington began working as a success coach at Goldsboro High School in September 2019 after have been a volunteer at GHS for several years. Anne was an advocate for high school students as she assisted them with course selections, planning trips to Wayne Community College to help students make decisions about classes for either dual enrollment or after their high school graduation. This job came naturally for Anne. In Anne's first career, she worked for Wayne Community College as the college liaison with Wayne County Public Schools . She was a "mother figure" to many high school students as she encouraged them, made sure they had the needed credits for graduation, and always finding the necessary school supplies. She has recently retired to spend more time with her family.

## Gale Lewis



Gale began at Carver Heights in January 2019 to begin the first CSS elementary reading buddy program. Under her supervision and her ability to attract great community partners, the program grew so quickly that there was a need for a second success coach at Carver Heights in the fall of 2019. Gale's love for children and her dedication for helping children learn to love reading was contagious. Recruiting volunteers was just one small part of her job at Carver Heights. Gale juggled schedules, organized activities, and notified volunteers of schedule changes and kept them "up to date" on anything that needed immediate attention. This is Gale's second retirement- the first from Wayne County Public Schools after 30+ years of teaching. She is excited about coming back to volunteer at Carver Heights!

# New Staff

## Becky Dixon, *Success Coach*

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Becky Dixon, retired WCPS educator, will be starting the new reading program at North Drive Elementary. Becky has worked in various capacities, including 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teacher and worked as a curriculum facilitator. She is a graduate of East Carolina University, where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, as well as Master's Degrees in Instructional Technology and Computer Education, as well as a Master of Arts in Library Science.

## Nikki Jackson, *Success Coach*

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Nikki Jackson, is also a retired WCPS educator. Nikki is working at Carver Heights Elementary with Robin DeVeaux. Her experience includes teaching third grade and being an Instructional Coach and Parent Involvement Coordinator. She is also received her National Board Certification. Nikki received both her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and her Master's Degree in Math Education from East Carolina University.

## Cassey Curran, *Restorative Justice Program Assistant*

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Cassey Curran, our new Restorative Justice Program Assistant, is a military spouse from Wichita Kansas. Cassey attended Wichita State University of Applied Sciences & Technology and is currently completing her Bachelor of Social Work at Fort Hays State University in Kansas. She has experience working with the Guardian ad Litem program, advocating for children in the Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Court.

## Aleisha Santos, *Social Media Manager*

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Aleisha Santos, who has been our Restorative Justice Program Assistant, will be a full-time law student this year! We are SO proud of Aleisha! She has taken this program to a new level and has worked for CSS while attending Campbell Law part-time for the past two years. Aleisha has been our "go to" for everything that involved technology, the website, newsletters, and everything else that you might imagine. She will continue to do our website and our newsletters remotely this year. We wish Aleisha all the best as she pushes ahead to complete her law degree!



# Restorative Justice Program

## What is the Restorative Justice Program?

This 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.



### Accountability Circles

Accountability Circles are similar to mediation but differ in that family and community members join the victim and offender in discussing how to hold the offender accountable and repair the harm done.



### ArtXecute

ArtXecute is an arts education initiative sponsored by Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County and is open to all Wayne County students (public school, private school, charter school and home school) ages 8-18 at no cost.



### Community Service

The Community Service component assists the juvenile court system in holding juvenile offenders accountable for their delinquent or undisciplined behavior by coordinating and monitoring their court-ordered community service



*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.*



### Moe's Town

ArtXecute preformed its first show, Moe's Town, in December 2023 at Wayne Community College. Moe's Town cast performed again in January 2024 at the Paramount Theater in Goldsboro.

### Lion King, Jr.

In spring 2024, ArtXecute announced its newest production. ArtXecute set its sights on producing Lion King Jr., a version of the hit Broadway stage production designed to be performed by young creatives but lacking none of the awe and wonder of the original stage play. In preparation for auctions, ArtXecute hosted dance and singing classes for Wayne County youth.



Go to [goldsboroparamount.com](http://goldsboroparamount.com) to purchase tickets online

# ARTXECUTE



CSS ARTS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

PRESENTS



Disney  
**THE**

# LION KING

©Disney

January 10 | 7 PM

January 11 | 7 PM

January 12 | 3 PM



## The Paramount Theatre

139 S. CENTER STREET, GOLDSBORO | 919-583-8432

[GOLDSBOROPARAMOUNT.COM](http://GOLDSBOROPARAMOUNT.COM)

## Adults \$20 & Students \$10

[waynecss.org/ArtXecute](http://waynecss.org/ArtXecute)

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# Our Data

# 6,980

## School Service Hours



Individual students case managed at middle and high school: **342**

Students served through group/schoolwide services: **6065**

Students served through elementary reading programs: **647**

Students served through Restorative Justice programs: **120**



# 5,614

## Total Volunteer Hours

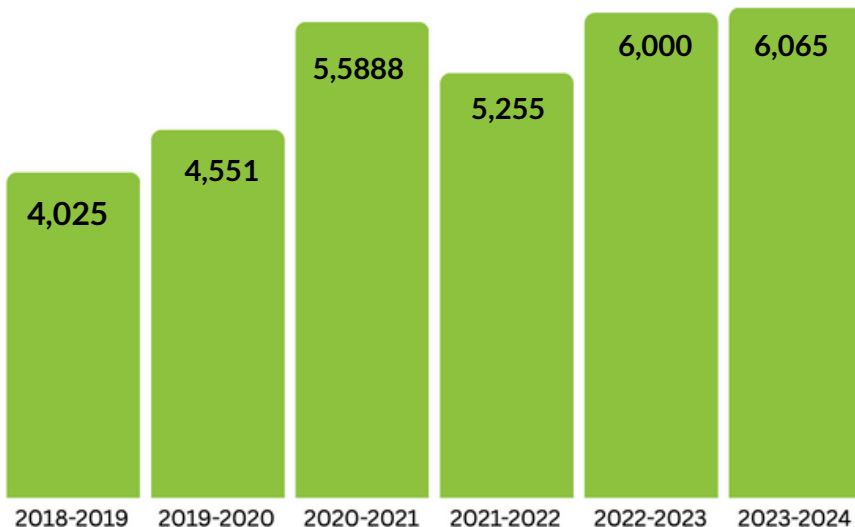
# \$168,420

## Value of Volunteer Hours

(\$30.00 an hour)

## Historical Data

School Wide Activities & Services from the Past Six Years:



2018-2019: 4,025 students served

2019-2020: 4,551 students served

2020-2021: 5,888 students served

2021-2022: 5,255 students served

2022-2023: 6,000 students served

2023-2024: 6,065 students served

COMMUNITIES SUPPORTING SCHOOLS  
OF WAYNE COUNTY

# Reading Buddies Needed

Looking for Reading Buddies to volunteer at select elementary schools in Wayne County.

## Our Schools

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### **Carver Heights Elementary**

411 Bunche Dr, Goldsboro, NC 27530

Point of Contact: Robin DeVeaux | [rdeveaux@waynecss.org](mailto:rdeveaux@waynecss.org) or  
Nikki Jackson | [njackson@waynecss.org](mailto:njackson@waynecss.org)

### **Carver Elementary**

400 Old Seven Springs Rd, Mt Olive, NC 28365

Point of Contact: Wendy Hooks | [whooks@waynecss.org](mailto:whooks@waynecss.org)

### **Brogden Primary**

2253 Old Mount Olive Hwy Dudley, NC 28333

Point of Contact: Nancy Lancaster | [nlancaster@waynecss.org](mailto:nlancaster@waynecss.org)

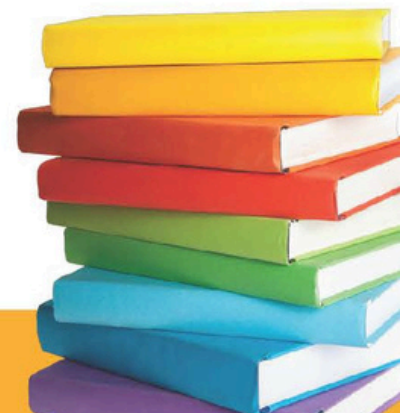
### **North Drive Elementary**

1108 North Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27534

Point of Contact: Becky Dixon | [bdixon@waynecss.org](mailto:bdixon@waynecss.org)



Communities Supporting Schools  
Of Wayne County, Inc.





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



**Dawn Amory**  
Data Management



**Wendy Hooks**  
Associate Director



**Selena Bennett**  
Executive Director



**Barbara Jones**  
Restorative Justice  
Program Director



**Aleisha Santos**  
Social Media Manager



**Angie Rains**  
Success Coach



**Anne Millington**  
Success Coach  
*Retired Fall '24*



**Gale Lewis**  
Success Coach  
*Retired Fall '24*



**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



**Nikki Jackson**  
Success Coach



**Cassey Curran**  
Restorative Justice  
Program Assistant



**Becky Dixon**  
Success Coach



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**STAY IN TOUCH**

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Communities Supporting Schools  
Of Wayne County, Inc.

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