

UNITED NEWS

SUMMER 2026

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POWER OF COMMUNITY ON DISPLAY DURING DAY OF ACTION

United Way of Wayne County's annual Day of Action brought together 67 volunteers who contributed more than 180 hours of service across multiple projects throughout Wayne County. Volunteers beautified schools and community spaces, conducted a litter sweep along William Street, assisted with a Habitat for Humanity home build, constructed a wheelchair ramp, delivered meals to homebound seniors, packed 300 lunch bags for the Little Sprouts Summer Lunch Program, and assembled Summer Success learning kits for local students. Businesses, local government, and community organizations demonstrated the power of collaboration to address local needs. Together, these efforts strengthened neighborhoods, supported children and families, and improved quality of life across Wayne County—showing what can be accomplished when a community comes together to serve.



WAYNE COUNTY STAMPED OUT HUNGER

The annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers, collected 6,660 pounds of nonperishable food across Wayne County on May 9, 2026, helping support approximately 500 local families through area food pantries and feeding programs. The event brought together 38 volunteers, including students, military personnel, and community supporters, along with local business partners, to collect and sort donations. Although the drive didn't reach its 12,000-pound goal, the lasting impact of every donation and the strong community collaboration in addressing food insecurity across Wayne County highlighted the importance of coming together to support local families in need.

CELEBRATING
VOLUNTEERS
DURING VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION WEEK

During Volunteer Appreciation Week, United Way of Wayne County celebrated the incredible individuals and organizations who give their time and talents to strengthen our community. The week kicked off with a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at the United Way office, sponsored by Great Harvest Bread Company, providing an opportunity to personally thank many of the volunteers who make our work possible. The celebration continued with "A Night Full of Heroes," a countywide ceremony recognizing local recipients of the 2026 Governor's Volunteer Service Award, including Wayne County's Medallion Award recipient, the Phi Alpha Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The week concluded with members of the chapter being honored at the North Carolina State Capitol for their outstanding mentorship and volunteer service through their Fatherhood and Mentoring Program at North Drive Elementary School, highlighting the lasting impact volunteers continue to make across Wayne County.



27TH ANNUAL FOUNDER'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

United Way of Wayne County's 27th Annual Founder's Cup Golf Tournament was a resounding success, bringing together teams from across the community for a day of fun, fundraising, and friendly competition at Walnut Creek Country Club. Taking top honors in the Gross Score category were Hwy55 (1st), Travelmation - Mallory Dumond, Travel Agent (2nd), and Goldsboro Builders Supply (3rd). Net Score winners included Franklin Baking Company (1st), New Old North (2nd), and Crawford Henderson Insurance (3rd). Individual contest winners included Ryan Chatt for Longest Drive, Kevin Sloan for Closest to the Pin, and Will Collins for Putt for Dough. The tournament not only celebrated community spirit but also helped support United Way's vital mission across Wayne County.



2026 ISSUE FOCUS
TRANSFORMATION
UPDATE

United Way of Wayne County is continuing its bold Issue Focus Transformation by shifting efforts toward addressing the root causes of poverty in our community. After extensive research and community input, the organization has adopted a strategic framework focused on childcare access, economic mobility, career pathways, and community resiliency, with a goal of empowering 12,000 individuals to achieve financial stability by 2035. While the 2026 campaign will continue supporting programs across health, education, basic needs, and financial stability, this transition marks an important step toward creating long-term, sustainable change for local families.

HAVE YOU MET ALICE?

ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. These are our neighbors who work hard—often at multiple jobs—but still struggle to afford basic needs like housing, childcare, healthcare, and transportation. They earn above the poverty level yet below what it takes to survive in today’s economy. United Way supports ALICE by investing in programs that remove barriers, build stability, and create pathways to financial independence.



Learn more about the ALICE United Way initiative at unitedwaync.org/who-alice



MEET OUR 2026 CAMPAIGN CHAIR

United Way of Wayne County is proud to announce Maegen Wilson of the Wayne County Public Library as the 2026 Community Campaign Chair. A dedicated member of United Way’s Board of Directors and a longtime Loaned Executive for the annual campaign, Maegen brings years of experience, passion, and community leadership to this important role. Her strong commitment to serving others and deep understanding of United Way’s mission make her a natural fit to lead this year’s campaign efforts.

As Campaign Chair, Maegen will work alongside volunteers, businesses, and community partners to help strengthen support systems across Wayne County and ensure local families have access to the resources they need. “We see every day just how vital strong community support systems are,” said Wilson. “Because of the efforts of our volunteers and workplace campaign leaders, our community will have somewhere to turn in the moments that matter most.” She also shared her appreciation for those who step up to support the campaign, adding, “Your leadership helps ensure that people aren’t facing challenges alone, but with real support, real care, and real hope.”

United Way of Wayne County is excited for Maegen to lead the charge for the 2026 campaign and looks forward to the impact this year’s efforts will have on the community.

WELCOMING A FEW NEW FACES

United Way of Wayne County is excited to welcome two new volunteers, Barbara Rice and Tameka Goldstone, to our team. Barbara and Tameka will be assisting at the front desk by answering phone calls, greeting visitors, helping check in appointments for Yamile and our Community Caseworkers, and supporting various administrative tasks throughout the office. Their willingness to serve and support daily operations helps ensure community members receive a welcoming and helpful experience when connecting with United Way services. We are grateful to have them join our volunteer team and look forward to the impact they will make.





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