



JOHN O. WILSON
HAMILTON NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, INC.

John O. Wilson Hamilton Neighborhood Center, Inc.

2022 Annual Report

The John O. Wilson Hamilton Neighborhood Center, Inc., is a 501 (c) (3) social service organization, dedicated to strengthening individuals, supporting families, and building thriving communities. Also known as “the Wilson Center,” it is more than just a childcare center, it’s a resource – a place where community residents can receive services and support! When we moved into our new location in 1976, we began to embrace the vision and we never looked back. Currently, the Wilson Center offers a wide array of support programs and services such as emergency financial assistance programs, a food pantry, computer lab, health screenings/clinics, and more.

With a more than 50-year history, the Wilson Center has served thousands of individuals and families in need. The Wilson Center is led by a volunteer board of directors, made up of a diverse group of working and retired professionals and community leaders. The Wilson Center is staffed with four full-time professionals and is supported by a host of volunteers.

Center Information:

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Address: 169 Wilfred Avenue, Hamilton, NJ 08610

Office Phone: (609) 393-6480 Office Fax: (609) 393-1230

Website: www.jowilsoncenter.org

Center Personnel:

Laurethea L. Kidd, MPA, Executive Director

Peter Damiri, Director of Programs and Services

Tiffany Britton, Case Manager

Shanice Union, Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors:

Dr. Joseph E. Woods, President

Lisa Campbell, PHR, Vice President

Nina D. Melker, Treasurer

Dr. Michael D. Fox, DC, Secretary

Louis C. Samuels, Director

Mittie White, Director

Nancy Phillips, Director & Liaison, Hamilton Township

This report summarizes the programs, events, activities, and financial information that have taken place at the John O. Wilson Hamilton Neighborhood Center, Inc. also known as “the Wilson Center” during 2022. The Wilson Center continues to play a pivotal role in the Hamilton community, changing the lives of those in need, every day.

Programs and Services

Food Pantry and Hunger Relief Events

Supporting individuals and families struggling with the ever-increasing rise in food insecurity, the Wilson Center, Inc.’s food pantry provided ongoing nourishment to residents within Hamilton Township and additional Mercer County communities. Stocked with canned fruits and vegetables, soup, pasta, rice, and other essential items, the food pantry is available to eligible residents weekly, due to COVID-19. The food pantry is accessed by appointment every Thursday, between the hours of 9:30 am to 4 pm.



In addition to the Food Pantry, our efforts in fighting food insecurities expanded to quarterly food drives which were available free of charge and without restriction for area residents. Depending on the time of year and selection/availability of items, various hunger-relief programs will feature boxes of fresh produce, Thanksgiving turkeys with all the trimmings, and other food options to help enhance nutritional health and overall wellness. Also, through our partnership with the Mercer County Department of Senior Services, area Hamilton seniors visit the Wilson Center to receive a free, nutritious lunch Monday through Friday as part of the county’s Nutrition Project for the Elderly.

1,083 Individuals Served (↑35% YOY):

- Food Pantry (112)
- Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway (528)
- Two Produce Box Giveaways (443)



Distribution is designed on **Thursdays from 9:30 am – 4 pm, by appointment.** Food is provided to individuals who contact us in emergent situations, and for individuals referred to us from other social services agencies.

The Southern Regional Distribution Center, in Vineland, NJ is our primary food source, in addition to goods and monetary donations were received from local schools, churches, civic organizations, community stakeholders, and residents.

Below, find some of our sponsors:

Hamilton Township, Administration and the Mayor’s Office

Hamilton Township Council

Mercer Street Friends

Shine and Inspire, Inc.

Women Who Move Mercer, Inc. – via Re/Max Tri County Realtors

Baha'i Community of Hamilton

Eastern Stars, Aaron Chapter #8 OES

Hamilton High School West Varsity Football

Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo

Assemblyman Daniel Benson

Councilman Charles Whalen

Friends of Nancy Phillips for Hamilton Council

Friends of Anthony Carabelli, Jr.

Election Fund of Papero for Council

Central Jersey Police & Fire FCU

Communications Workers of America – Local 1042

Saint Phillips Baptist Church

Hamilton Area YMCA

Miss Barbara's School House

Professional Counseling and Development, LLC

Youth and Family Services

Driven to support the needy families in our community, the Wilson Center works to meet critical needs of our community families through support programs and giveaways. These well-received initiatives included our annual school backpack giveaway, Operation Christmas, summer camp program in partnership with the Hamilton Area YMCA, and more.

586 Individuals Served (↑339% YOY):

- Operation Christmas - distribution of Christmas gifts, toys, and winter coats (239)
- Halloween Trick or Treat Giftbag Giveaway (150)
- School Backpack Giveaway (113)



- Family Easter Egg Hunt (43)
- Summer Camp at the YMCA (28)
- Mobile Gaming Truck Party (13)

Combating Homelessness



With the goal of keeping individuals and families from facing eviction and loss of heat, power or water, the Wilson Center Inc.'s Homeless Prevention Program provided back rent and utility assistance to local residents who met program eligibility criteria. This critically needed emergency relief service offered a one-time supplemental payment toward rent, electricity, water, or heat to help mitigate the devastating effects of facing homelessness and/or loss of utility.

108 Individuals Avoided Homelessness or Utility Interruption (↑33% YOY):

- Emergency Rent Assistance (31)
- Emergency Utility Assistance (77)

Improving Community Health and Wellness

With a focus on educating the general community, the Wilson Center, Inc. launched a series of free, in-person classes and educational workshops to help residents better understand and improve their physical, mental, emotional, financial, and spiritual health and wellbeing. Titled, "Wellness @Wilson," these presentations, many in partnership with Robert Wood Johnson Hamilton Hospital and Penn Medicine Princeton Health, covered various wellness topics including how to manage stress, the benefits of yoga, breast cancer awareness, and more.



Additionally, during the summer of 2022 the Wilson Center hosted its first-ever community resource fair, titled "Wellness is Winning." This free, outdoor fair featuring more than 30 health and community exhibitors providing valuable health information, resources, and screenings/immunizations to the residents of Hamilton. Also, to help shine a spotlight on the importance of mental health and wellness, we launched a partnership with the Hamilton-based Professional

Counseling and Development Center, LLC to offer free "drop-in" individual therapy sessions at the Center.

Finally, for more than 20 years, the Wilson Center, Inc. has partnered with the Hamilton Township Division of Health to provide health education, health checks/screenings, pneumonia, and the flu immunizations to Hamilton seniors. During 2022, the Wilson Center, Inc. partnered with the Hamilton Township Division of Health to provide **five** free health screenings and vaccination sessions to help keep our community safe, healthy, and protected.



377 Individuals Served (↑33% YOY):

- In-person wellness programs and events (246)
- Community health vaccinations (131)

Caring for Our Seniors

Recognizing the importance of maintaining social interaction and engagement with our senior population and keeping them updated on important resources to support their health and wellbeing, the Wilson Center, Inc. organized and hosted a variety of fun, interactive programs

which included workshops, arts and crafts, and other activities which helped to reinforce cognitive capability.

Through a two-year grant from the Mercer County Office on Aging, in early 2022 the Wilson Center developed and launched a new community support and service program specific to seniors, titled, "The Wilson S.A.G.E. Program (Senior Activities, Guidance, and Education." The S.A.G.E. program aims to foster increased connections, socialization, recreation, and education among our senior population. The highly successful S.A.G.E. program quickly became a popular among area seniors, with more than 50 in-person activities and programs hosted at the Center during the year. Plans for 2023 are to expand the menu of offerings and develop new community partnerships to help bring added value and wellness options to senior residents.

604 Individuals Served (↑451% YOY):

- Creative Craft classes (169)
- Bingo sessions (157)
- Recreational Bus Trips (157)
- Lunch and Learns workshops (52)
- Beginners Seated Yoga (35)
- Holiday Party (34)



Community Partnerships

Serving as the neighborhood "hub" for social and civic groups, the Wilson Center, Inc. partnered with many community enrichment programs and activities including the federally funded Gateway Community Action Partnership - Early Head Start/Head Start, Mercer County Senior Nutrition Program, Narcotics Anonymous, and more.

Partner Programs:

of Individuals Served Annually:

Gateway Community Action Partnership – Early Head Start/Head Start	85
Narcotics Anonymous	50
Golden Agers of Hamilton	40
Family Transition Support Services (FTSS) – until May 31st	30
Mercer County Senior Nutrition Program	23
Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. (Professional Educator’s Sorority)	25

Computer Room/Computer Access

The Wilson Center computer lab, which is available to adults and students, is furnished with eight newly installed computers with access to a desktop printer. Residents accessed the computer lab for the following:

- job searches
- resume writing and updating
- applications
- personal email
- projects, reports, and meeting minutes

42 Individuals Served (↑68% YOY)

Copy, Fax & Notary Services

Residents received assistance with their copying and faxing needs, free of charge. Notary services was also available for free.

20 Individuals Served (↑25% YOY)

Financial Information:

Annual Budget: \$413,627

