Wilkes County, North Carolina

The Health Foundation, Inc., and partners, form the Wilkes Healthy Action Team to address Wilkes County’s health and safety needs through cross-sector, community-informed work.

Goals

- Authentically engage the community to develop policy, system, and environmental changes needed to enhance healthful eating
- Remove barriers that prohibit people from accessing healthy foods including transportation, cost, and knowledge of food preparation

Background

- Population size: 68,557
- Wilkes County has a high poverty rate of 19%, with 13.8% being food insecure.
- 22.6% of children in Wilkes County live in homes that are food insecure.

Key Milestones from July – December 2020

- 4 new food access points
- 3,900 individuals reached through public communications that promote advocacy, transparency, awareness or knowledge of the food system
- 2,252 individuals provided with foods that support healthy eating patterns

Success Stories

- Distributed 24,000 meals to children 0–18 years old
- Recruited 6 Design Team Members with varied life experiences who will pilot ideas generated to explore the connection between the ability to access healthy foods and where a person lives
- Served 157 unduplicated people with 1,820 meals

Follow their social media!

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