JOHN O. WILSON
HAMILTON NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, INC.

2024
ANNUAL REPORT



Together, we can make a difference.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Do what you can, with what you've got, where you are."
– Teddy Roosevelt

Dear Friends of the Center,

Last year was another remarkable year for the Wilson Center. At the beginning of the year, we set out to accomplish what seemed impossible and finished the year achieving more than ever! In 2024, we more than doubled the number of individuals and families that sought our services for case management, information and referrals. Our interventions resulted in less families experiencing utility interruptions or homelessness. We hosted our first ever Tricky Tray fundraiser. Our partners and friends were a tremendous help. We were able to giveaway more than 65 donated baskets – it was a great night! The proceeds from this fundraiser allowed us to support families in need, here in our community. We expanded our food pantry services. We partnered with Mercer Street Friends, which allowed us to provide more food for the increased number of individuals and families that needed our services. During the Thanksgiving holiday, we fed the most families in our history of holiday distributions. We updated our website. Our new website has a cleaner, more polished look, packed with content. It is much easier to navigate, and it is extremely user-friendly to receive donations. Lastly, we joined the nonprofit community and launched an official "Giving Tuesday" fundraising event that extended into a Holiday Giving Campaign. Both initiatives, to our surprise, showed us that we truly do have Friends of the Center, and they showed the value of the work that we do with their holiday contributions. It was truly amazing!

I shared all of that to say, a little does go a long way! With little staff and little funding, we continued to change lives. Our Wellness @ Wilson Health Education and Services programs continued throughout 2024. We continued to host "senior-only" events to keep our senior socialized and mobile. We struck a new partnership with Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County. Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County provided a free 24-week exercise program for our seniors. When we posted "sign-ups" the response was tremendous! Every week, we hosted a group of seniors that are getting healthy and fit! According to the Interfaith Caregivers, the Wilson Center set record numbers for attendance. We are leading the County! And last by not least, we continued our youth and family programs and services.

As we move into 2025, we will continue to make our mark on the community by touching as many families in need, as we can. We plan to increase awareness about our programs and services. If you have not signed up for our email communications, visit our website at jowilsoncenter.org. When you sign up, look for our soon-to-be-released newsletter, entitled "Your Community Connection". In the newsletter, we intend to provide some content of recent events, information about future programs services and share ways that you can help through volunteerism and donations.

In closing, I want to say something about fundraising. Historically, the Wilson Center did little fundraising to support its operations. The Wilson Center primarily relied on federal and county grants to fund operations and programs. However, to keep up with the ever-changing economic landscape and the ever-growing client needs, the Wilson Center must adopt the principle of fundraising, characteristic of the nonprofit industry and become a fundraising organization. The days of relying on the government entities for programmatic support have ended. In order for the Wilson Center to remain present and relevant in the community, we must fundraise! And we need your help!

Look for the return of our Tricky Tray Fundraiser in June and buy a ticket. Think of us during the Christmas holiday and donate! More importantly, ask people that you know, who do not know about us, to join us at our first friend-raiser event in September. Stay tuned for more details. Donations can be made on our website at jowilsoncenter.org.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you in 2024. I look forward to all that we, together will do in 2025. Wishing you all best in this new year!

In Service,
Laurethea Kidd, MPA



OUR **HISTORY**

With more than 50 years of service in the Hamilton Township community, the John O. Wilson Hamilton Neighborhood Center, Inc. (501(c) 3) is a resource for individuals, families, adults, children, and seniors. Our programs and services include but are not limited to: food assistance, homeless prevention (emergency financial support), mental health therapy, computer education, holiday gifts giveaways, senior activities and nutrition, bus trips, immunization & health screenings, case management, information and referrals, and more.



Known to many as "The Wilson Center," the John O. Wilson Hamilton Neighborhood Center, Inc., was originally founded in 1967 in the basement of the Saint Phillips Baptist Church by Pastor John O. Wilson, as a childcare center. However, it was Pastor Wilson's vision to provide more than childcare services to the community – he wanted a resource center, a place where community residents could receive services and support. In 1976, the Township of Hamilton, dedicated our current location of 169 Wilfred Avenue to his cause.

Additionally, the Wilson Center is the home of many community programs, social and civic groups.



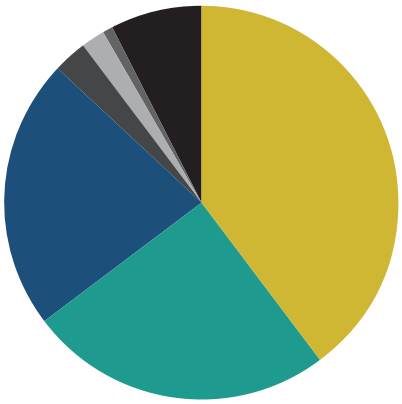
OUR **MISSION**

Our mission is to offer programs and services that strengthen individuals, support families, and build thriving communities.

COMMUNITY **IMPACT**

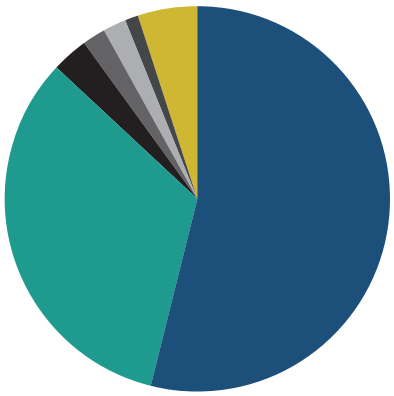
Programs/Services # of Individuals Served in 2024	
Hunger Relief	**1,169**
Youth/Family Services	**472**
Homeless Prevention	**133**
Community Education/Service	**549**

CLIENT **PROFILE**



Ethnicity/Race

Black or African American	43%
Hispanic or Latino	27%
White or Caucasian	24%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%
Did Not Identify	8%
Other	3%



Residence

Hamilton	54%
Trenton	33%
Ewing	3%
East Windsor	2%
Lawrenceville	2%
Robbinsville	1%
Other	5%

INCOME

44.8% of reported households earned **less than $25,000 annually.**

NEW **PARTNERS & PROGRAMS**

Launched several years ago, the Wellness @Wilson initiative is a series of free educational programs and workshops designed to help residents improve their physical, mental, and financial wellness. Forged by the creation of new partnerships with well-respected leaders in the community, the Wellness @Wilson campaign implemented numerous programs and events addressing important issues such as:.

- Nutrition and healthy eating with **Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton**;
- Life-saving CPR training for the community as well as babysitting instruction for teens with **Penn Medicine Princton Health**;
- Mental health and wellness through **Professional Counseling and Development Center, LLC;**
- Issues of domestic violence and abuse with experts from **Womanspace**.

During the fiscal year, the Wilson Center also forged new partnerships with the:

- **Credit Union of NJ** for a series of financial wellness workshops on first-time home buying;
- **Children's Futures** for two highly successful diaper giveaway campaigns supporting low-income families in the Hamilton/Trenton area; and
- **Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County** for the launch of a 24-week exercise program for seniors, titled "PROJECT: Health Bones."

Additionally, the Wilson Center hosted a well-attended community resource fair through our relationship with **Mercer County Executives**, and proudly continued our longstanding collaboration with the **Hamilton Township Division of Health** who provided numerous free health screenings and vaccination sessions throughout the year to help keep our community safe, healthy, and protected.

"Excellent presentation on CPR. I learned how to save a life."

"You are doing wonderful work for so many of us who deeply appreciate a helping hand. God Bless all of you." – Michael D.







FOOD **INSECURITY**

Supporting individuals and families struggling with the ever-increasing rise in food insecurity, the Wilson Center's food pantry provided ongoing nourishment to residents within Hamilton Township and additional Mercer County communities. Supported through our partnerships with The Southern Regional Food Distribution Center and Mercer Street Friends, the food pantry is accessed by appointment every Thursday, between the hours of 9 am to 4 pm.



In addition to the Food Pantry, our efforts in fighting food insecurities expanded to scheduled food drives throughout the year 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.





"Provided my family with nutrition and a great variety of options."

– Monica M.

"All items that were provided in the Thanksgiving Basket completed my meal for several days. I am very grateful to the John O. Wilson Center. I was able to make turkey salad as well soup with the leftover turkey."

– Jackie H.

"The produce was fresh as always. The staff at the Wilson Center is always pleasant and helpful. I am handicapped. They always help me get everything into my car. I am very appreciative for all they do at the Wilson Center."

– Margaret I.

CASE **MANAGEMENT & REFERRALS**

The Wilson Center, Inc. offers case management and support services to the residents of Hamilton Township and the surrounding communities. Together, the case manager and the individual/family work to overcome the identified obstacles and challenges and provide supportive linkages to other agencies and targeted resources.

> *"Thank you for supporting us in difficult times."* **– Carlos D.**

104
Households Received Case Management

HOMELESS PREVENTION

With the goal of keeping individuals and families from eviction and loss of heat, power or water, the Wilson Center's Homeless Prevention Program secures grant funding to provide back rent and utility assistance to qualified residents within Hamilton Township and the surrounding communities. This critically needed emergency relief service offers a one-time supplemental payment toward rent, electricity, water, gas and oil to help mitigate the devastating effects of homelessness and sudden loss of utility.

60
Evictions Avoided

73
Utility Interruptions Avoided

104
Total Households Served

SERVICE AREAS:

East Windsor
Ewing
Robbinsville
Pennington
Hamilton
West Windsor
Trenton
Yardville

> *"I had a shut off notice, and they helped me right on time. The help came when I most needed it. I was surprised at how fast the process was. I greatly appreciate it."* **– Ruby T.**

> *"Because off my low income having the Wilson Center help with the Food Pantry as well as the Emergency utility assistance was an extremely big help with my utilities and food."*
> **- Anonymous**

YOUTH **ACTIVITIES**

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Driven to support 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, a babysitting training program in partnership with Penn Medicine Princeton Health, two diaper giveaways in partnership with Children's Futures, a Santa's Workshop Holiday Toy Giveaway, and more.

- *"Thanks so much for being there for the community."* **– Tom S.**

- *"Your Center is very pleasant and helpful. All of the products and services you provide are needed in Hamilton."* **– Pamela T.**









SENIOR **ACTIVITIES**

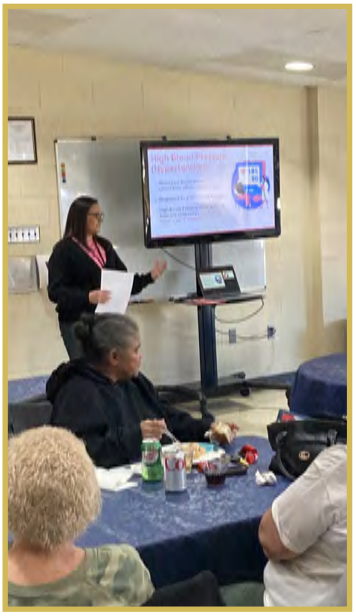
As part of our very popular and successful S.A.G.E. Program (Senior Activities, Guidance, and Education), the Wilson Center organized and hosted more than 80 fun, interactive programs and activities for area seniors throughout the year. With the goal of fostering increased socialization, recreation, education, and wellness among our senior population, some of the many well-attended S.A.G.E. programs offered during the year included arts and crafts classes, workshops on healthy eating and fraud prevention, monthly bingo sessions, exciting bus trips, group line dancing classes, computer training, and more.

Additionally, through a partnership with Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County, the Wilson Center was extremely proud to launch a robust weekly exercise program, titled: PROJECT: Healthy Bones. This 24-week, fall-prevention program guided seniors through a series of exercises designed to increase their balance, posture, strength, and breathing. Complimenting the exercise portion of the program, representatives also provided education on osteoporosis and invited guest speakers to discuss nutrition, stress reduction and other wellness strategies.

"The instructor is very kind. I enjoy doing different activities and meeting new people."

"I learned something new today. It was fun!"

"It was good to know how much exercise we must do weekly and how the exercises affect certain parts of the body."





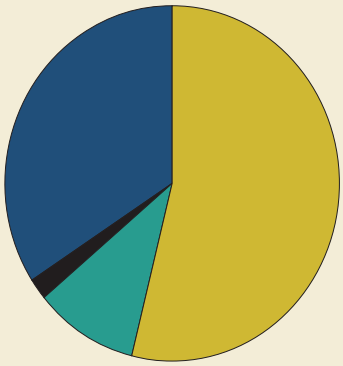




FINANCIAL SUMMARY **2024**

2024 Actual Revenue

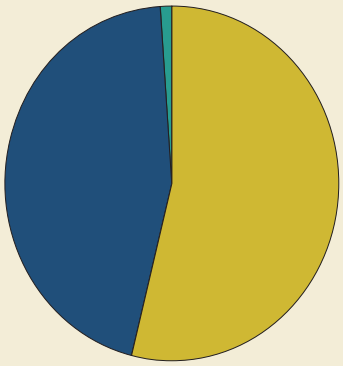
$463,663



Government	54%
Property	10%
Donations/Fundraising	2%
Other Program Revenue	34%

2024 Actual Expense

$386,666



General and Administration	54%
Programs	45%
Fundraising	1%

A Caring Community of Supporters

Thank you for your suppport!

Donors

A M
Barbara Hairston
Beth O'Brien
Betty Bethea
Bianca Jerez
Bruce Yost
Carol Dolci
Carolyn Selmon
Cathy Weber
Charles Walen, Hamilton Council
Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Cynthia Campbell
Darrell Wilson
Dianna Rawls
Erica Williams
First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Square
Gloria Stephens
Howard Barina
Jacqueline Peoples
James Anderson
Jean Malloy
Jeanette Bergeron
Joseph Lanigan
Latoya Wilson
Lisa Flick
Lorraine W Dennis
Madeline Walker
Margarita Rivera
Mittie White
Nina Melker
Paula Bonfonti
Peter Damiri
Rebecca Hunninghake
Ritha Simon
Rose Marie Whales
Sherbina Touzin
Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Hamilton
Thomas Sine, Jr.
Tracey Williams
Weefen Tsui
Maggie
Laurethea Kidd
Communications Workers of America #1042
Knights of Columbus Council #6213
Sonia Rosa-Leone
Assemblyman Daniel Benson
Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo
Friends of Anthony Carabellli, Jr. for Hamilton Council
Friends of Nancy Phillips for Hamilton Council
Election Fund of Papero for Council
Hamilton West High School
United Way of Greater Mercer County
Miss Barbara's Schoolhouse
Women Who Move Mercer, Inc.
Professional Counseling & Development, LLC
Aaron Lodge No 9
The Bank of Princeton
Teens on Fire – Camp Fire NJ
Daniel Rossi Memorial Scholarship Fund
Mercer County Conference of PBA
Mercer County Sheriff's PBA Local 187 Civic Association Inc.
Mercer Street Friends
Trenton Deliverance Center Church
Valerie Graham
Gateway Head Start, Hamilton #1
Phi Delta Kappa

LEADERSHIP

JOHN O. WILSON
HAMILTON NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, INC.

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Peter Damiri, Director of Programs and Services

Jacqueline Githongo, Case Manager

Abbigail Mamie, Case Manager

Ximena Estefania Jimenez Ruiz, Administrative Assistant

Ariana Musil, Administrative Assistant

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