

Buncombe County Family Justice Center



Buncombe County Family Justice Center
A Path to Strength, Safety & Hope

On July 1, 2016 the Buncombe County Family Justice Center opened its doors to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Since the FJC opened, survivors of violence have accessed counseling, civil legal services, safety planning, sexual assault medical exams, education, and criminal justice support from agencies located at the Family Justice Center. Onsite partners include: Asheville Police Department, Buncombe County Health and Human Services, Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, Buncombe County District Attorney's Office, Helpmate, Mission Health, Mountain Child Advocacy Center, OurVOICE, Pisgah Legal Services, and the YWCA Asheville.

Integrated, Survivor-Centered Intake

Before the FJC, victims had to navigate a fragmented system to get the help they needed. Now, at the FJC, they are able to access integrated intake from an FJC Intake Specialist who helps assess needs and coordinate access to additional service providers.

Increasing Safety; Reducing Fear and Anxiety

Having the chance to talk with an intake specialist and get connected to available resources helps people who have experienced violence feel safer. After meeting with an FJC Intake Specialist, 92% of survey respondents indicated that they had a plan to keep themselves safe, and they knew what to do if they were in danger. 71% of survey respondents reported decreased levels of fear and anxiety.

Many people have shared what the most helpful part



The Buncombe County Family Justice Center is located at 35 Woodfin Street in downtown Asheville.

of their experience at the FJC was.

Clients shared comments like:

“getting the help and resources that I needed”

“being able to talk through my situation with a person who listened”

“everybody making me feel comfortable”

“being able to talk with all the different agencies in one stop”

“coordinating between staff and law enforcement”

Supporting Survivors

It is important that faith leaders, medical providers, first responders and others in our community know about the impacts of domestic and sexual violence and how to connect victims with the FJC.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or sexual violence, support is available at the Family Justice Center, located at 35 Woodfin Street in downtown Asheville, or by calling (828) 250-6900.

If you are concerned about someone's safety in a relationship you can:

- Let them know you care about their safety and that they deserve a respectful and healthy relationship.
- Listen and give support. Let them know you believe them and care about them.
- Educate yourself: Identify resources and learn more about dating violence. The Buncombe County Family

Justice Center is a great place to start to connect with local support.

- Help them develop a safety plan and access resources.



Buncombe County Health and Human Services
www.buncombecounty.org

MANY PARTNERS, ONE LOCATION.



Cultural Identity

WRES Banquet

With over 200 people in attendance, the WRES Banquet celebrated 16 years of Asheville's only African American radio station and 40 years of community service by Elder John R. Hayes. In addition to being a co-founder of WRES and the Empowerment Resource Center, Hayes founded and led the Hillcrest Enrichment program and Hillcrest High Steppers team, and served as president of the NAACP. Elizabeth White got the idea for the event after attending a funeral.

"Like the old saying, it's good to give flowers to people while they can smell them, I think that we need to show that we appreciate each other more," she says. She wanted Hayes to have the opportunity to hear

the accolades others have for him. After convening a planning team that included Randy Weston and Ami Worthen, White and her team made her idea into a reality.



WRES Banquet organizer Elizabeth White.



Sophie Dixon
Photo: Ami Worthen

The banquet, held at A-B Tech, featured gospel music from Carluse Baird, the Weston Brothers, and the Smith Sisters. The emcee was Dr. John Grant of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Delicious food was provided by Circle B BBQ. There was a slideshow with photos from Hayes' work over the years. The night closed with a rousing performance by members of the Hillcrest



John and Becky Hayes.
Photo: Andre Daugherty

High Steppers.

Dixon, another station co-founder who was honored at the banquet for her years of volunteer service, said the event was an opportunity to celebrate the history and accomplishments of the black community. "Hayes has better grasp on black history in Asheville than most people because he realizes the importance of it," Dixon explained. She hopes this looking back will inspire work that is happening today, because "history is being made now, it's what you do as you live."

When people come together around cultural identity, they create positive places that reinforce community resilience. Two recent examples of such gatherings are WRES FM's Sweet 16 Banquet Honoring Elder Hayes and Nuestro Centro's RAICES Summer Camp.



Hillcrest High Steppers & Drum Corps

The banquet was a joyful opportunity for community members to connect. "It brought people together - the atmosphere was so inviting," said White. "People

were so glad to see each other that they were mingling and talking like time didn't mean anything. They felt good being there."

Nuestro Centro's RAICES Summer Camp

Nuestro Centro's two-week Summer Camp provided approximately 30 children with a fun and enriching experience. This camp was made possible through a Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Community Economic Investment grant and significant input and involvement from parents.

"The camp was almost 100% in Spanish," says co-coordinator Geny

Hernández. "In RAICES we have the goal that the kids connect with their homeland, with their mother tongue." As co-coordinator Mirian Porras Rosas explained, "The mission of Nuestro Centro is culture, and culture has a wide spectrum, especially Latin American culture, [and] Mexican culture... [In camp] we were exploring what it means to be Mexican, second generation, in the

United States."

Rosas continued, stating that, "I think to move forward to the future we need to go back to the past. What happened before, what happened during the period of time when our people arrived to our land and now that we've left our homeland, what has happened as our culture, music, food has evolved, our language... how do we explore all of these different branches of culture?"

"This camp had intention on so many different levels," shared Hernández. "We had the intention to share with our kids, to give them opportunities, a learning space, a fun space, an entertaining space for them to share. Also, the intention was to feel like we can have



Nuestro Centro's RAICES Summer Camp

control over our child care. The moms were the main character here, the child care for their kids, even the educational part.

"At the time of planning the camp we realized the hidden treasures and abilities within our communities and we invited those people to come and participate in the camp... We had training about educational methods, we had training about economic justice... It had intention and we want that to

continue being that way. If it has an intention, it is going to create transformation."

The camp was hosted at the Arthur R. Edington Education & Career Center, where center coordinator Shuvonda Harper and others graciously welcomed the camp. "I really felt the warmth of home and the sincere transparency from everyone at the Edington Center, says Rosas. "I want them to know that because I thank them a lot."



RAICES Summer Camp Leaders