



[NEW HANOVER COUNTY]

BUILDING COMMUNITY, OPPORTUNITY, & EQUITY THROUGH PLACE-BASED COLLABORATION

Blue Ribbon Commission of Wilmington, NC

The Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on the Prevention of Youth Violence is a program focused on fostering the wellbeing of the youth and families who are residents of an area in Wilmington, NC known as the Youth Enrichment Zone (YEZ). Approximately 400 families live inside the YEZ. This program based in New Hanover County was created in 2008 to address the growing concerns of youth violence concentrated within the boundaries of the YEZ. The BRC seeks to provide leadership, foster collaboration, and develop resources for addressing youth violence. The BRC’s mission is “Building a community where youth are safe, healthy, educated, and successful...Now!” The BRC is supported by community and faith-based organizations, schools, mental health and human service organizations, political leaders, for-profit companies, and many non-profits whose focus is on the needs of children and families. The underlying strategy of the BRC is not to create additional programs, but rather to build upon existing resources, identify and fill gaps, and bring about better collaboration between agencies to serve children, youth, and families in need.

The BRC has created the YEZ, a project modeled after the successful Harlem Children’s Zone. The goal of the YEZ is to transform the community within the designated area by identifying existing resources and coordinating a continuum of support and services to increase availability of after school, summer enrichment, life-skills, and parenting programs and activities to reduce youth violence. The mission of the BRC is divided into 3 primary goals: increase health and wellness of youth in the YEZ, foster a safe environment where youth can prosper, and support the success of YEZ youth in school.



Key Strengths

Community connectedness,
Parent-Child connectedness,
Economic opportunity,
Positive school climate & school connectedness

Program Type

various

Program Setting

various

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