

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2017

1,300 Work On Wilmington Volunteers to Serve Local Nonprofits in One Day

WILMINGTON, NC— Saturday, April 29, marks the 12th Annual Work On Wilmington community service event. The annual volunteer-led workday will bring together individuals and businesses across New Hanover County who give their time and sweat equity to foster the improvement of our community's vital schools, parks, museums and nonprofit organizations.

Some of the 38 projects selected for this year's event include creating a reading oasis at Holly Tree Elementary School, renovating the aquatic center at the YWCA of the Lower Cape Fear, backyard beautification at the Brigade Boys & Girls Club Teen Center, and much more.

Work On Wilmington is sponsored by the Wilmington Chamber Foundation and carried out by the Leadership Wilmington program to bring together local businesses and volunteers to improve our community. This year, more than 1,300 volunteers are assigned to various projects throughout the city, and will spend the morning painting, planting, fixing, refurbishing and cleaning area nonprofits and schools. The day culminates in a volunteer appreciation celebration at Pier 33 in downtown Wilmington that includes food, music, games and prizes.

In the last seven years, Leadership Wilmington and the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Foundation have worked to raise nearly \$500,000 in support of Work on Wilmington projects. Major sponsors for 2017 include the Corning Foundation, GE Hitachi, The Grainger Foundation, The Home Depot Foundation, New Hanover Regional Medical Center, and PPD.

Volunteer efforts are made possible by more than 40 area businesses and individuals who provide materials, services and financial support. It is estimated that more than \$130,000 in free labor is provided by the volunteers who participate in Work On Wilmington. Because many hands are collectively working, projects that would take months to accomplish are completed in just four hours.

Volunteers are scheduled to work at project sites for the following organizations:

- A Bike for Every Child
- ADR Center
- Brigade Boys & Girls Club
- Cape Fear Community Land Trust
- Cape Fear HealthNet
- The Carousel Center
- Catholic Charities
- Child Development Center
- Communities in Schools
- Communities Boys & Girls Club
- Domestic Violence Shelter

DREAMS of Wilmington
Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina
Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington
Good Shepherd Center
The Harrelson Center
Holly Tree Elementary
Island Montessori Charter School
Kelly House
Laney High School
Leading into New Communities
Lower Cape Fear Hospice
MedNorth Health Center
Bradley Creek Elementary School
New Hanover County Parks Conservancy
New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District
Open House Youth Shelter and Services of Coastal Horizon Center
Pine Valley Elementary
PORT Stepping Stone Manor
WHAT of Coastal Horizons
Wilmington Green
Wilmington Hammerheads Youth FC
YWCA of the Lower Cape Fear

About Work On Wilmington

Work On Wilmington is an annual community service event organized by Leadership Wilmington, a civic leadership development program of the Wilmington Chamber Foundation. Work On Wilmington was launched by the 2006 class of Leadership Wilmington. The mission is to inspire people to work together on community projects that make Wilmington a better place to live. For details, visit www.workonwilmington.org. To learn more about Leadership Wilmington, contact Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Director of Communications Scott Czechlewski at (910) 762-2611, ext. 216, or czechlewski@wilmingtonchamber.org.