

Troop 5 – Evelyn Wilson

Mrs. Evelyn Wilson is a pioneer in community leadership whose personal mission is to exhibit methods to help families unite as a cohesive unit, while also providing a support system on which families can rely.

Mrs. Wilson was born and raised on Mill Street in Greenwood, and moved to Coverdale Crossroads in 1971. She worked for 25 years in home health care, 6 years in adult foster care, and 5 years as residential youth/after school staff at People's Place. However, she has done more in her retirement years than many in their professional lives. Here is a snapshot of what she has been doing most recently:

For 14 years, Mrs. Wilson served as the volunteer Youth Program Coordinator for Coverdale Crossroads community (coordinating the afterschool and mentoring programs) while simultaneously serving as president of the Coverdale Crossroads Civic Association for 12 years. In addition, she has been an active member for First State Community Action Agency Executive Board of Directors for 8 years. She has invested countless volunteer hours in the Coverdale Crossroads community. This has included finding resources for

residents in their times of need, assisting youth with their homework, and writing grants for funds for youth programs, special projects and community events.

Mrs. Wilson is keenly aware that the local afterschool program is essential to the community's survival. During her volunteer service, if any of the participating youth lacked anything, Mrs. Wilson made sure they got what they needed. That included food, school uniforms, summer clothing, shoes or sneakers, coats, school supplies, and back packs. She routinely rewarded students each time they participated in an educational workshop. Rewards included gift cards, field trips or a meals at the restaurant of their choice.

Resigning from the presidency of the Coverdale Crossroads Community Civic Association in 2015, Mrs. Wilson remained steadfast in her community service. Mrs. Wilson continued to coordinate mobile pantries for surrounding communities, and provided resources for families to obtain food, clothing, septic systems or wells, housing rehabilitation, etc. At her home, every Sunday, she distributed fruit, vegetables, and baked goods for families in surrounding communities. She also periodically distributes food provided by the Food Bank of Delaware. On top of this, she finds time to attend meetings and trainings to bring information back to the community to improve their quality of life.

Mrs. Wilson created a niche as the go-to person who is trusted by the communities. In 2017, she founded and became president of Just a Hand up Community Navigation Association, which is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Just a Hand Up serves Sussex and Kent Counties. Their mission is to strengthen the communities, while helping people in need restore their hope, reach their potential, and improve their quality of life. She continues to provide resources through collaboration with a multitude of agencies including: First State Community Action Agency, the Food Bank of Delaware, the Delaware State Police, Sussex County Council, Delaware State Housing Group, South Eastern Rural Communities Assistance Program, Energize Delaware (Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility), Sussex County Health Coalition, Habitat for Humanity, Draper Holdings Charitable Foundation, WalMart, the State of Delaware and surrounding communities.

Mrs. Wilson knows, though, that successful projects require as much efficiency in administration as they do vision and purpose. She ensures her reports, appointments, and presentations are completed professionally and promptly. It is her administrative efficiency that has allowed her to participate in numerous other community roles. She has served as volunteer mediator for The Delaware Center for Justice. She is also a board member for the

Gee... You Will Project (which provides formal wear for low income girls to attend school events and hosts the Women Supporting Women Through Opportunity Conference). And, she acts as a professional facilitator for the free Delaware Money School, which is part of the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council.

Mrs. Wilson is known as being committed, loyal, intelligent, honest, motivated, dependable, adaptable, and a personable go-getter with a great sense of humor. She is a dedicated, hard-working wife of 20 years to James Wilson and mother of three, two of whom are still living (ages 45 and 50). She is also the proud grandmother of nine.

Mrs. Wilson earned her Associate of Applied Science Degree in Human Services at Delaware Technical and Community College in May 1994. Always striving for advancement, Mrs. Wilson plans to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in the near future.

Mrs. Wilson puts others' needs ahead of her own. Most importantly, she considers herself the voice of encouragement. She strives to improve the quality of life for her neighbors. Mrs. Wilson has been a reliable friend of the Delaware State Police, and we are pleased to recognize her tonight as Troop 5's Honorary Troop Commander for 2020.