



About Our Coalition:

The mission of the Wayne County Recovery Coalition (WCRC) is to improve the health and safety of individuals and families in Wayne County through comprehensive, community-wide strategies that reduce and prevent youth and adult substance use, assure treatment services are available and accessible for all, and promote long-term recovery for everyone. WCRC was initially formed in 2019 when a task force was developed to look into the rising number of ER visits related to drug misuse and overdose deaths due to opioids in Wayne County. In September of 2023, the WCRC was awarded a Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFCSP) grant to prevent and reduce youth substance use.

Partners in Wayne County are uniting in health, safety, and well-being: Anchored, Boys and Girls Club of the Altamaha Area, City of Odum, City of Screven, Coastal Pines Technical College, Drug Court, Family Connections, Forward Digital Marketing, Jesup Police Department, Life, Inc., Mother's Against Substance Abuse, Press Sentinel Newspaper, Safe Kids, Shane's Crib, Share Health Southeast Georgia, Southeast Health District, St. Simons by the Sea, Wayne County School System, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, and Wayne Memorial Hospital. By combining resources and support as partners in prevention, Wayne County will become a safe and healthy place for youth and families to thrive and live life substance free.



All Recovery Meetings

Every Friday at 6:30 PM
177 N Brunswick St. Jesup GA

WCRC Meeting

October 14, 2025 – 9:30 AM
Anchored Conference Room
177 N. Brunswick St, Jesup, GA 31545

DEA National Drug Take Back Day Saturday, October 25, 2025

On October 25, 2025, community members can safely dispose of unwanted medications during the DEA National Drug Take Back Day. This event promotes secure disposal to prevent misuse and protect the environment, addressing the risks of unused medications in homes and the dangers of improper disposal methods.

For resources, and to find a drop-off location near you,
click here: <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday>.

Red Ribbon Week 2025: Life is a Puzzle, Solve It Drug-Free October 23–31



Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign that encourages youth to live healthy, drug-free lives. The 2025 theme, “**Life is a Puzzle, Solve It Drug-Free™**”, reminds us that every choice we make is a piece of the bigger picture—building a stronger, brighter future one step at a time.

Why Red Ribbon Week is Important for Youth:

- Encourages making positive, healthy choices
- Raises awareness about the dangers of drug misuse
- Reinforces life skills like decision-making and resilience
- Promotes community and peer support for a drug-free lifestyle
- Inspires youth to take pride in their personal growth and achievements

How to Support Youth During Red Ribbon Week:

- Participate in school or community campaigns and events
- Engage in conversations about the risks of drugs and healthy alternatives
- Celebrate successes and positive choices with encouragement
- Share creative ways to stay drug-free, like social media challenges or poster contests
- Model healthy behaviors as adults and mentors

Red Ribbon Week is a chance to remind youth that every decision matters—and together, we can help them solve life drug-free!





Prevention Capacity Building Workshop

Share Health, with mini grant funding from Greater Valdosta United Way and Waycross Resilient Georgia Partnership/Magnolia House, hosted a Prevention Capacity Building Workshop, an interactive, in-person training designed to prepare coalition members and community stakeholders to increase the coalition's capacity to address youth substance use prevention utilizing the Seven Strategies for Community-Level change. The workshop was conducted by Ari Russell and Ellen Gerstein of A&E Consulting. During the workshop, participants 1) considered steps to improve the organizational capacity of their coalition, 2) learned and practiced the 5-step Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), 3) explored the seven Strategies for Community-Level Change, a framework for types of youth substance use prevention strategies, and 4) reviewed eligibility and other requirements for the DFC grant. 23 partners from Action Pact, Clinch Memorial Hospital, Division of Family and Children Services, Georgia National Guard, Evans County Family Connection, Legacy Behavioral Health, Life Inc., Magnolia House, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, Southeast Non-Profit Housing, Southeast Health District, The Haven, Unison Behavioral Health, and Worksource Georgia joined us for two days of training in the name of prevention! This included CCYC partners Bonita Blake and Jessica Rios!

A heartfelt thank you to Ari and Ellen for leading such an impactful training and for pouring into our Southeast Georgia communities! We're also grateful to the Waycross Family Justice Center for graciously hosting us and providing their space. Special thanks to Greater Valdosta United Way and the Waycross Resilient Georgia Partnership/Magnolia House for their mini-grant support, which made this training possible and helped us strengthen prevention capacity in our region. We look forward to continuing to build prevention efforts and expand resources for Southeast Georgia communities—stay tuned for more to come!





Rise and Recover Youth Rally Empowers Students



The **Rise and Recover Youth Rally** was held on September 6th at the Wayne County Farmers Market, bringing together 60 students and 20 adult volunteers for an evening focused on **healthy relationships and substance-free choices**. Planned and implemented by the Anchored Junior Board with leadership support from the Wayne County School System, Anchored, and the Georgia Council for Recovery, the event carried the theme: **“Love without Harm, Healthy Relationships and Substance-Free Choices.”** Guests enjoyed prevention-focused games, educational giveaways, free t-shirts, pizza, and lemonade before the program officially began.

Speakers Valerie Williams, Kristyna Brooks and Cheryl Prescott shared powerful messages with students, including:

- “You have to have knowledge to Love Smart.”
- “It’s love when you love yourself.”
- “Abuse is abuse, one time is too many times.”
- “I am 6 ½ years into my recovery, I am still learning what a healthy relationship is and the hardest one is my relationship with myself.”

Following the rally, AJB leaders met with school administration to discuss ways students can support their peers. A key takeaway was the interest in hosting a similar event for parents, featuring speakers and giveaways that engage adults and reinforce the importance of supporting youth in making safe, healthy choices.

Sponsors, Funders, and Key Resources

