



Wayne County Recovery Coalition

December 2025 Newsletter

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.

Upcoming Community Events

WCRC Meeting

December 9, 2025 – 9:30 AM
Odum Recreation Center
7200 Odum Hwy, Odum, GA 31555

Pineland BHDD Mental Health Community Meeting

January 16th - Virtual
Questions? Contact Sarah Refuss:
serefuss@pinelandbhdd.org

Holiday Safety Tips for Youth

The holiday season is a great time to celebrate, recharge, and connect—but it can also bring pressure to engage in risky behaviors. Encourage youth to choose positive activities, lean on supportive friends and family, and stay substance free. Small, healthy choices now help set the tone for a safe and happy holiday season.



JUNIOR BOARD PRESENTS

SCHOOL-WIDE ART CONTEST

Wayne County students, it's time to get creative! The Anchored Junior Board is inviting all students to design the official 2026 Kindness Coin — a special token that celebrates encouragement, compassion, and the power of kindness within our school community.

Guidelines for Art Submissions:

- Must be original and creative
- Should encourage kindness
- Uplift with its image and message
- Must fit within a 2-inch circle



Deadline:

Submit your artwork to your art teacher by **December 12.**

The winning design will be featured on the **2026 Kindness Coin** and shared school-wide to inspire acts of kindness throughout our community. Don't miss this chance to leave your mark and spread positivity!



Wayne County
Recovery Coalition

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and Facebook!



<https://www.waynecountyrecovery.com>



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@wcrecoverycoalition



December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

The holidays are all about fun, friends, and making memories — but risky choices like using substances and driving can turn a great night into a tragedy. December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, and it is a perfect reminder for young people to stay safe and look out for each other.

Before heading to a party or holiday event, plan your ride, stick with a designated driver, or choose substance free activities. Making smart choices not only keeps you safe but protects everyone around you. This season, let's focus on creating good memories, supporting friends, and celebrating safely — because the best holiday stories are the ones you get to tell.

If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and speak up for yourself or a friend. Safe choices don't just prevent dangerous situations; they show real strength and leadership.



Partner Highlight: Pineland BHDD Mental Health Collaborative

Pineland BHDD has started a Mental Health Community Collaborative and WCRC partner, Anchored, hosted the October Community Collaborative meeting, where organizations gathered to share updates and coordinate community support efforts. Pineland announced a new Behavioral Health Director, successful CARF accreditation, and expansion of the Family Support Program, which now offers up to \$3,000 annually for individuals with developmental disabilities. They also shared progress on the Resilient Georgia grant aimed at reducing adverse childhood experiences and a five-year Integrated Primary Care grant to improve access for uninsured individuals. Pineland emphasized usage of 988 Lifeline and SAMHSA resources.

The meeting also addressed regional challenges, including funding cuts for disability services, housing shortages, generational poverty, and growing youth mental health concerns. Partners discussed the need for more educator training, as well as efforts to expand Best Buddies programs for youth with disabilities. Updates on veteran support through the COMPACT Act were also shared.

The event wrapped up with announcements about upcoming community activities—such as medication take-back events, baby showers, painting classes, and holiday programs. The next meeting will be virtual on Friday, January 16, 2026! Contact Sarah Refuss, Pineland's Marketing & Community Outreach Coordinator to join!



Sponsors, Funders, and Key Resources



SCAN ME



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