

History of the Vision

More than 15 years ago, while Wade was still a school, Brian Checchio began dreaming and praying about a community outreach center located there that would offer programs and mentoring relationships to Bluefield's youth. While he was still the youth director of Westminster Church, he formed a committee to consider the project. In December of 2004, that committee formed a separate corporation to proceed with plans to buy and renovate the old Wade School building. Thanks to broad community support, this tax-exempt corporation now owns the property and has taken large steps toward returning this treasured landmark to a place of prominence in the community. Now, totally separate from any church or denomination, the Wade Center is led by a diverse Board of Directors and has begun offering programs that aim to give hope to those in our community who need spiritual, physical, educational and emotional encouragement.

Wade School has a rich history as well. It began in 1921 when the school was built. Wade served junior high students until 1957. Then elementary students used the facility for the next 42 years. Wade was closed in June 2000 as a result of school consolidation, but it is a great choice for this type of community center. The Wade School campus is made up of two separate buildings connected by a covered walkway. One building contains a gym and diner/coffeehouse area. The other is a three-story building containing over twenty classrooms, a library, a cafeteria and office space. Thanks to grants and support from local businesses and individuals, heating and plumbing have been repaired. The auditorium, gym, diner and most classrooms are now in use. Once again, smiling children are filling Wade's halls and playgrounds!



The Wade Center
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P.O. Box 777
Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 323-3777
www.wadecenter.com



In the heart of
the community
with the
community
in our heart.

Who? What? When? Where? Why? ... Wade!

The Problem...

Many children, teens, and young adults in the Greater Bluefield Community lack the skills and abilities to position themselves for success in life. Contributing factors to this problem include lack of family support, high numbers of single-parent households and frequent latch-key children situations. If these needs continue to go unmet, this will lead to continuing increases in crime rates, drug convictions, loitering, high school drop-outs, joblessness, teen pregnancy and feelings of despair and hopelessness.

The Solution...

The Wade Center has purchased and renovated the historic Wade School facility and is using it to restore lives in the community. This center addresses the spiritual, physical, emotional and intellectual needs of members of the Bluefield community, encouraging personal growth and creating more productive members of society.

Programs and Services

Wade seeks to promote and nurture the growth of the children, teens and young adults of the Greater Bluefield Community. We do so through practical programs and mentoring relationships that address their physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs.

- × Afterschool Program: On Mondays through Thursdays, children in grades 1-8 can choose to spend time in our computer lab, art room, gym, game room, library and tutoring areas. This helps many children in latchkey situations.
- × Boys and Girls Clubs: Once a week, children find a healthy sense of belonging and identity as they learn practical life skills from adult mentors in our clubs. They also discuss important issues like dating and bullying.
- × Summer Camp: Each summer, professional educators help students prepare for the next year of school in an exciting all-day program that features interactive learning.
- × Other Programs include Sunday worship, college coffee-house, adult computer classes, teen activities and more!

Details about all our programs are online at wadecenter.com.



How You Can Help

While we have obtained grants that have allowed for the purchase and renovation of our facility, we rely on the generosity of individuals, businesses and churches to cover our ongoing operational expenses.

Your contributions will allow us to continue meeting the needs of children and youth for years to come.

If you would like to make a donation, your check should be made payable to the Wade Center and sent to:

The Wade Center
P.O. Box 777
Bluefield, WV 24701

You may also make a one-time gift or schedule automatic monthly giving using your credit card at wadecenter.com.

We are a 501(c)(3) organization, meaning all contributions are tax-deductible. And, most importantly all donations will help give hope to our community's youth and prepare the next generation for a lifetime of success!

In his own words... Executive Director Brian Checchio



"I have been dreaming and praying about this project for over 15 years. I think Bluefield is in great need of a place that ministers to the entire family, but specifically addresses the needs of our children and teenagers. Many in this age group simply fall through the cracks and have no option for a productive future. The Wade Center is a place that welcomes all people and provides opportunities for recreation and spiritual and personal growth."

