



December 2023 Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 12

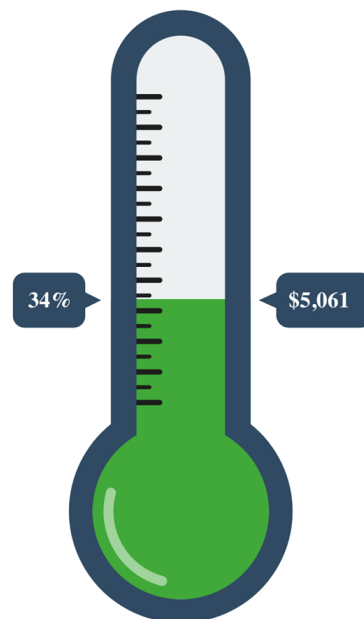
Year-End Giving Update

Your "Matched" Year-end Donation Ensures a Leafy Legacy for Generations to Come

Your contribution, big or small, makes a monumental impact on our efforts to improve our city's tree canopy.

Every dollar you contribute will be matched, thanks to a group of generous donors, up to \$15,000. To date we've raised \$5,061. We're a little over a third of the way there!

GOAL: \$15,000



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Did you know Wilmington's tree canopy coverage decreased from 48.1% in 2016 to 41.4% in 2020. In our short eight-year history, ACFT has planted or helped plant over 3,000 trees and given away another 14,000. The value of trees goes well beyond beauty. They improve air and water quality, combat climate change and urban heat island effect, and provide habitat for wildlife. They also lower blood pressure and stress, improve mental well-being, reduce conditions that worsen respiratory problems like asthma, and improve immunity and mental focus (even ADHD). Trees are part of the essential green infrastructure that determines the health of our city - and ACFT believes these benefits should be available to all citizens.

This year ACFT also launched a new volunteer Tree Steward program to care for and maintain trees after planting to ensure they survive those critical first few years.

Your support is crucial to our mission of preserving, protecting, and planting trees to enhance the health and quality of life for present and future generations in the Lower Cape Fear area. Until the end of the 2023, your gift counts twice! Together, we can make a lasting impact.

[Click Here for Donation Information!](#)

Green Up Your New Year's Resolution with our 2024 Events and Opportunities to Give Back

We
Need
You
To
Be
A
Tree

Looking for ways to get out of the house and maybe burn off that extra slice of fruitcake? (No judgment from us). ACFT has just the opportunity for you!

Before we can move forward with our two street tree plantings on January 27th and February 10th, we need volunteers to go door to door and ask residents for permission to have a tree planted in front of their homes in the Southside area.

Our office will provide street addresses, safety vests, official volunteer tags and door hangers. You can do this on your own schedule and arrange for your own partner or we can match you with another volunteer. Learn more at our [Tree Ambassadors page](#).

We need to provide the City Urban Forestry staff the list of locations for both plantings by Thursday, January 11th.

If you are able to volunteer for this important initiative, please email allison@acftrees.org.

Our Early 2024 Tree Plantings & Distributions

Saturday, January 28th Tree Planting

Join ACFT's largest tree planting to date thanks to the support of the Arbor Day Foundation and Truist Bank! We will be planting over 100 trees in the neighborhood around the 8th Street Martin Luther King Center. If you would like to volunteer, please click [here](#).

Saturday, February 10th Tree Planting

Thanks to grants from the NC Extension Master Gardeners Volunteer Association (EMGVA) and the Landfall Foundation, ACFT volunteers will plant trees in the Southside neighborhood. If you would like to volunteer, please click [here](#).

Saturday, March 9th Tree Distribution

Details coming soon!

Check Out November's Greening Up Events

November 11th Tree Planting

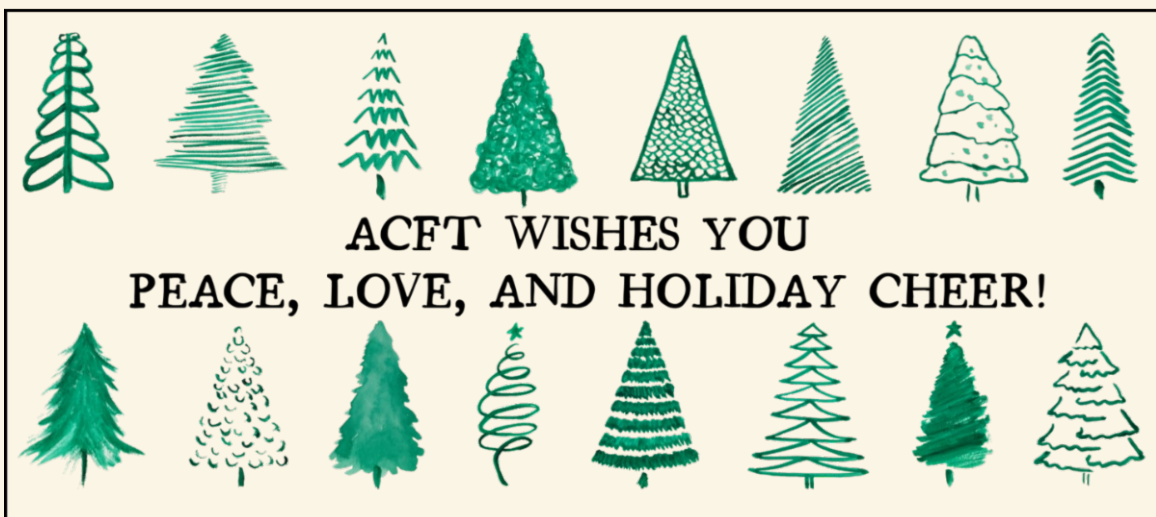
To commemorate 1898, ACFT volunteers braved the cold and rainy weather to plant 24 trees in the area surrounding St. Luke AME Zion Church, thanks to funding from the Arbor Day Foundation and Truist Bank. ACFT appreciates the support of **Barlett Tree Service**, the City of Wilmington, and St. Luke AME Zion Church.





Our 700 Tree Distribution Party

November 18th ACFT volunteers led the best tree party in town! 700 trees were thankful to find new homes thanks to our partnerships with Arbor Day Foundation, Truist Bank, City of Wilmington and New Hanover County.



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