



CATAWBA COUNTY

P.O. BOX 669 Newton, North Carolina 28658-0669 (828) 695-5600 **Catawba County Social Services**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Jan. 10, 2011

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HOUSING VISIONS SEEKS DONATIONS FOR POINT IN TIME COUNT OF HOMELESS PERSONS

HICKORY — Housing Visions: A Continuum of Care is seeking donations for its annual Point in Time Count of homeless persons in Catawba County. This count is the U.S. Census's effort to document how many homeless persons live in the area. The results may be used in calculating government funding to combat homelessness.

Housing Visions volunteers distribute needed items to persons experiencing homelessness during this count, which takes place Jan. 25. Members of the public are asked to donate the items to be distributed, or to make a donation to purchase the needed items.

Each homeless person participating in the Point in Time Count receives the following items: 8'x 10' tarp, alcohol-free mouth wash, new or gently used full size backpack, blankets, can opener, pop top canned fruit, pop top canned meat, comb/brush, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, flashlight and batteries, gloves, hand wipes (Wet Ones), L or XL heavy sweatshirt, single serving bottled water, razors and shaving cream, shampoo, socks, toboggan/knit cap, toothbrush and toothpaste, towel, and washcloth.

Donated items and monetary donations are needed by Friday, Jan. 20. You may mail your monetary donation to Catawba County United Way/Backpacks for Homeless, P.O. Boxes 2425, Hickory, NC 28603. Please make out your check to Catawba County United Way and write "Backpacks for Homeless" in the memo line.

Donated items may be dropped off at one of the following locations: Catawba County United Way, 800 17th St. NW, Suite UW, Hickory; Mental Health Partners at 1985 Tate Blvd. SE, Suite 259, Hickory; or Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, 245 East N St., Newton.

For additional information about donating or volunteering with the Point in Time Count, contact Teena Willis at Mental Health Partners, at 828-323-8084.

Housing Visions is a consortium of many human service agencies that deal with issues of poverty and homelessness. Additional information about the organization is available at <http://www.housingvisionscatawba.org> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Housing-Visions-Continuum-of-Care/157004407655316>.

Housing Visions partners include the following: the homeless community, A Caring Alternative, ALFA, Catawba County United Way, Catawba Valley Behavioral Healthcare, The Corner Table, Catawba Valley Community College, Catawba County Social Services, Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries, Exodus Homes/Exodus Works, Family Guidance Center, Grace House, Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries, Hickory Police Department, Hickory Soup Kitchen, Homeless Veterans' Program, Mental Health Partners, Our Father's Pavilion, Safe Harbor Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Sipe's Orchard Home, The Shepherd's Heart.

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