



CATAWBA COUNTY

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MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

HICKORY, N.C. — More than 200 volunteers with Catawba County Meals on Wheels were recognized at a recent appreciation breakfast at J&S Cafeteria.

The volunteers deliver meals to county residents who are 60 or older and who are unable to prepare meals for themselves at home. Hickory Mayor Rudy Wright spoke to the gathering, thanking the volunteers for their contributions to their fellow citizens. He presented keys to the city to four volunteers who are 85 or older. They are Isaiah Springs, Winnie Hovey, Richard Stine and Truitt Beard.



Hickory Mayor Rudy Wright presents keys to the city to Meals on Wheels volunteers who are 85 or older. From left to right: Mayor Wright, Isaiah Springs, Winnie Hovey, Richard Stine and Truitt Beard.

Following the breakfast and words of thanks, there was a drawing for door prizes donated by 66 area businesses and individuals. Some of the door prizes included a foot stool from Old Hickory Tannery, three barstools and two side tables from Watson's Furniture, a floor lamp from Office Depot, and eight tickets from Hickory Crawdads.

Jan Shaffer, who oversees Meals on Wheels and other Senior Nutrition programs operated by Catawba County Social Services, displayed a quilt that will be raffled to raise money for the local Meals on Wheels program. The quilt was made and donated by Kittie Forbes, a participant in the Seniors Morning Out program.

J.C. Epting is typical of many of the volunteers who attended the breakfast. He said he began volunteering many years ago when his former employer organized a team. His mother, who lived in High Point, had benefited from Meals on Wheels. He felt he was repaying the kindness of the volunteers who had helped his mother by serving other senior citizens in Hickory. The recipients seem to appreciate not only the food, but also the visits of the volunteers, he said. Epting has gotten to know many of the recipients over the years. "I look forward to it as much as they do," he said.

Meals on Wheels is funded with a combination of federal, state and county money, along with local donations. During the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year, 375 Catawba County residents were served by Meals on Wheels. It takes approximately one hour a month during the lunch hour to serve as a volunteer. Businesses are also encouraged to help by organizing a team of volunteers or donating to the program

For additional information about volunteering or making a donation to Catawba County Meals on Wheels, contact Jan Shaffer at 828-695-5617 or jans@catawbacountync.gov.