



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PERSONS INTERESTED IN FOSTERING OR ADOPTING A CHILD INVITED TO TERRELL MEETING

TERRELL -- Persons interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents are invited to attend a free information meeting to be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. June 8 at the new Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library. The library is located at 9154 Sherrills Ford Road, Terrell.

This event is sponsored by Family Builders, the foster and adoption service of Catawba County Social Services. The regularly scheduled information meeting will also be held June 9 at 6 p.m. at the Family Services Center, located behind Catawba Valley Medical Center, at 3050 11th Avenue Drive SE, Hickory.

Both meetings will cover the same information. Free child care will be provided for those attending the meetings who have young children. Additional foster parents are especially needed in the Sherrills Ford/Terrell area.

There are currently approximately 230 children in foster care in Catawba County. Partially due to the shortage of local, licensed foster care homes, approximately 40 percent of these children have to be placed outside the county, according to Megan Hildebran, a Family Builders social worker.

There was a 21 percent increase in the number of Catawba County children entering foster care between July 1, 2014 and May 1, 2015 compared to a year earlier. During the same time period, there was an 11 percent decrease in the number of children leaving foster care.

"We hope more people in Catawba County will open their hearts and homes to these children, who need a safe and loving home. Foster parents who are willing to accept sibling groups are especially needed," Hildebran said. For more information, contact Megan Hildebran at 828-695-4553 or mhildebran@catawbacountync.gov.

Additional information on foster parenting is also available at Family Builders' website, fostercatawba.com.

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