



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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RUN/WALK RAISES MONEY FOR BACKPACK PROGRAM IN MEMORY OF MAIDEN RESIDENT

MAIDEN -- Temple Lawing of Maiden will never forget May 23, 2014. The project management professional was at work at GKN Driveline in Newton when the Human Resource associate came to her desk and said, "Temple you need to go. Your mother-in-law has been hit by a car while walking."

"After that, it's all a blur," Temple recalled. Three days later, her mother-in-law, Becky Lawing, died as a result of head injuries suffered in the Maiden accident. Temple said her mother-in-law was especially close to her grandchildren, picking them up from school each day and watching them during the summer. Temple and her husband, Derek, have three children: Mason, 15; Cody, 12; and Chloe, 8.

"Becky walked three miles every day in our small town," Temple said. "She was very involved with children for many years and loved her grandchildren dearly."

The October following the accident, Temple was inspired to honor Becky and help local children at the same time. Temple learned that Banoak Elementary, where her niece Skylar was a student, needed more funds for the Backpack Program. This countywide program, which is coordinated by Catawba County Social Services, relies on local donations and volunteers to provide extra food for the weekend during the school year to children who may be facing food insecurity.

Temple, with the help of her husband, Derek, organized Bustin It 4 Becky, a 5K run/walk to raise money for the Backpack Program in memory of her mother-in-law. The run was held Dec. 13 and raised \$5,050, thanks to 262 participants, volunteers and sponsors.



L-R: Skylar, Cindy, Todd, Chloe, Mason, Temple, Derek, Cody and Becky Lawing. After the accidental death of Becky Lawing, the mother of Todd and Derek, the Lawings organized "Bustin It 4 Becky," a run/walk that raised more than \$5,000 for the Backpack Program of Catawba County.

"I have three children in the Catawba County School System, and I am able to provide them with what they need to survive," Temple said. "I can't imagine a child leaving school on a Friday or long break and not having anything to eat. My mother-in-law volunteered at my children's schools and loved every child as her own. Her favorite volunteer job was helping the kindergarteners with their lunch so the teachers could eat."



Temple Lawing hopes to make the run/walk an annual event. She said she would like for the money raised to go to the schools that are lacking funds for the Backpack Program, including Maiden, Banoak and Tuttle elementary schools.

"We truly appreciate Temple's efforts to help feed the children of our community," said Backpack Program coordinator Amanda Freeland. "It is a fitting tribute to her mother-in-law, Becky, who cared so much for the children of her neighborhood." If you, your church, company or club would like to help the Backpack Program by volunteering, making a donation, or holding a fund-raising event, contact Freeland at afreeland@catawbacountync.gov, or like the Backpack Program's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CatawbaCountyBackpackProgram>.

You may make a donation securely online by going to <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/Backpack> and clicking on the "Donate Now" button at the bottom of the page. You may also donate by writing a check to Catawba County Social Services and writing "Backpack Program" in the memo line. Mail your donation to Catawba County Social Services, P.O. Box 669, Newton, NC 28658.