



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHURCHES ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN FOSTER CARE SUNDAY

HICKORY – Churches in Catawba County are being asked to participate in Foster Care Sunday on May 21. This event will emphasize the need for more foster parents throughout the county.

Foster Care Sunday is sponsored by Family Builders of Catawba Valley, the foster and adoption unit of Catawba County Social Services, which has an average 230 foster children in its care at any given time. There is an urgent need for more foster parents, who provide a temporary, loving home for these children until they can reunite with their parents, be placed with guardians, or be adopted.

Churches may participate in this outreach event by placing a notice in their church bulletin, making an announcement during church services, or by other means of their choice. Speakers will not be available for all churches, due to the large number of churches in the county.

Family Builders can provide the following information to churches wishing to participate: detailed information regarding the need for more foster parents; written material such as rack cards, church bulletin inserts, flyers, etc.; announcement examples; and Christian videos about the need for foster and adoptive families. Pastors and other church leaders who are interested in this effort are encouraged to contact Megan Burns, foster and adoptive parent recruiter and trainer. She may be reached at mburns@catawbacountync.gov or by calling 828-695-4553. Additional information about the fostering process may be found at <http://www.fostercatawba.com>.

"If one family in every Catawba County church would become a foster family, we would not have a shortage of foster homes," Burns said. Foster parents must undergo a background check and attend training. "Our social workers are always available to respond to the needs and questions of foster parents," she said. "We hope that church members in our county will prayerfully consider becoming foster parents."

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