

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 17, 2016

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SOCIAL SERVICES REQUEST FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRAWS OVERWHELMING RESPONSE

HICKORY – Catawba County Social Services recently asked county businesses, churches, civic clubs and other groups for donations of school supplies for the children it serves. The response was overwhelming.

Keli Osborne, educational advocate for Social Services, works with children in foster care to help them stay on track in school. She knows how important it can be to have the right school supplies. However, the state does not provide money for school supplies for these children. So each year, Social Services employees try to find a way to meet that need.

“We sent out a flyer that said ‘build a backpack!’” Osborne said. “As we began collecting, we realized we were taking in so much more than we thought we would receive! Our goal was to collect 350 stuffed book bags and we far exceeded that goal. We spread the word that we had so much to give, and agencies around Catawba County began asking us for donations. We have boxed and sent the school systems, Council On Adolescents, and the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center filled book bags as well as the families and children we serve through Social Services.”

Transportation Insight was one company that was especially generous, donating 400 book



Foster care social worker Aveary Walsh with a few of the school supplies donated by groups and individuals in the county.

bags filled with school supplies. In all, Social Services was able to distribute 700 book bags stuffed with school supplies to families who need them.

The need for “extras” not covered by state funds continues throughout the year. These include such items as band instruments, athletic equipment, field trip fees, and school pictures. If you or your business, church or other organization would like to donate to meet this need, you may do so by sending a check made out to “Catawba County DSS” with “Foster Children’s Expense Fund” in the memo line. Checks may be mailed to Catawba County Social Services, Business Office, P.O. Box 669, Newton, NC 28658. You may also make a secure online donation at <https://www.velocitypayment.com/client/catawba/socialservices1/index.htm>. Just select “Foster Children’s Expense Fund” from the drop-down menu.

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