



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

P.O. BOX 669 Newton, North Carolina 28658-0669 (828) 695-5600 www.catawbacountync.gov/dss

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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or

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CRAWDADS TO HELP BACKPACK PROGRAM FEED LOCAL CHILDREN

HICKORY -- The Hickory Crawdads are teaming with The Backpack Program of Catawba County to help feed local school children in need.

Fans of the minor league baseball team are asked to bring one or more non-perishable food item to the game on Aug. 28, 29 or 30. The gates open at 6 p.m. each night, and games start at 7 p.m.

Each donated food item is good for \$1 off the ticket price for the game that night. This offer is good for up to nine items. Anyone bringing nine food items to the game on one of these evenings will receive a free ticket.

The Backpack Program is a collaboration of Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Catawba County Social Services and local individuals, businesses, clubs and churches. The program provides weekend food to students in Catawba County who are hungry. It provides each child with dinners, lunches, breakfasts and snacks throughout the school year. Last year, the program provided food to more than 900 children throughout Catawba County.

Suggested food items to donate include the following: macaroni and cheese or Easy Mac, unrefrigerated pudding cups, unrefrigerated microwave meals, pop top canned meals, peanut butter, apple sauce, oatmeal or grits in individual packets, unrefrigerated fruit cups, granola or fruit bars, canned chicken or tuna, fruit snacks, and canned or dry soup. Smaller-sized items are preferred since they will have to be carried home in a child's backpack. Please do not donate sugary snacks or drinks, items that need to be refrigerated, or items that are past their expiration date.

For more information about how your church or organization can get involved, please contact Amanda Freeland at 828-695-5648 or afreeland@catawbacountync.gov. Monetary donations to the program are also welcomed. You may send a check to Catawba County Social Services at P.O. Box 669, Newton, NC 28658

and put "Backpack Program" in the memo line. Donations are also accepted at ECCCM at P.O. Box 31, Newton, NC 28658. Please include your contact information to receive a letter as confirmation for tax purposes.

Online donations are accepted at

<https://www.velocitypayment.com/client/catawba/socialservices/index.htm>. Please select "Backpack Program" from the drop-down menu.

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