

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Feb. 18, 2015

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BAGS DONATED TO HELP CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE

HICKORY -- Carolyn Zimmerman has donated 28 bags for Catawba County Social Services workers to use when removing a child from his or her home.

Social workers often have to act quickly when a report is received about a child in a dangerous situation, said Amy Herman, Child Welfare Program manager. If the social workers determine there is immediate danger, the child is removed right away. Social workers need to quickly collect some of the child's clothing and personal belongings. That's where the small bags are helpful. They provide a colorful and positive note during a stressful time in the child's life. The bags will remain with the child when he or she is placed with a foster family.

The bags were purchased by Zimmerman's friends through a special promotion of Thirty One Gifts. Zimmerman is a sales consultant for the company that sells handbags, totes and other gift items.

She approached Social Services ahead of time to see if the bags would be useful. Herman responded enthusiastically that the bags would be helpful to children and teens entering foster care.

"We really appreciate Carolyn thinking of Catawba County's foster children," Herman said. "We will put these bags to good use."

Catawba County Social Services also has a special fund that accepts donations to help pay for life's extras for children in foster care. It can be used for things such as school pictures, yearbooks, band instruments, or athletic equipment. For more information about the Foster Children's Expense Fund, go to <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/donations.asp> or call 828-695-4536.



Carolyn Zimmerman and her daughter Charlotte give the donated bags for children in foster care to Amy Herman (right), Child Welfare Program manager at Catawba County Social Services. The bags were purchased with donations from Zimmerman's friends