



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 16-24

HICKORY -- Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week will be observed in Catawba County Nov. 16-24, 2013. The week's special events are sponsored by Housing Visions, a group of local agencies and individuals working together to end hunger and homelessness in Catawba County.

Sunday, Nov. 17, a morning worship service will be held on Union Square in downtown Hickory. Starting at 7:30 a.m., breakfast will be served, followed by a worship service. This event is presented by Our Father's Pavilion, a local ministry for persons experiencing homelessness.

On Nov. 19, there will be a bingo game at Hickory Soup Kitchen at 1-3 p.m. This is a special event for persons experiencing homelessness.

On Nov. 21, there will be a special public presentation on homelessness in our area from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Catawba Valley Community College East Wing Auditorium on the main campus. There will be a dramatic performance titled "Throwing Stones" performed by The Troupe, followed by a Homeless Forum, featuring personal testimonies by persons who are currently or were formerly homeless.

On Nov. 23, there will be a cookout at Grace House Day Shelter from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location is 102 First Ave. NE, Hickory. The public is invited to join the staff of Grace House and persons they serve to learn more about this ministry.

Homelessness continues to be a problem in Catawba County. On the night of Jan. 30, 2013, there were 260 homeless persons counted in Catawba County for the U.S. Census. Catawba County Schools reported 173 students were homeless during the 2012-2013 school year. This school year, there have been 81 new reports of homeless students in the school district.

For more information about Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, go to <http://www.housingvisionscatawba.org> or contact Teena Willis at twillis@partnersbhm.org or 828-323-8084.

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