



## CATAWBA COUNTY

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BANFIELD CHARITABLE TRUST AWARDS GRANT TO PET FOOD PROGRAM**

HICKORY, N.C. — Catawba County Meals on Wheels recipients will now have additional help providing food for their pets, thanks to a grant from Banfield Charitable Trust. Banfield Animal Hospitals are located in many PetSmart stores.

The Catawba County Pet Food Program was begun recently because pet ownership has been shown to have a positive effect on the physical and emotional health of senior citizens. Meals on Wheels recipients are 60 or older, homebound, and unable to shop or prepare their own food. Their pets provide needed companionship.

Some senior citizens are so attached to their pets that they will forego needed medications or other essentials for themselves in order to provide for their animal companions. Catawba County Meals on Wheels believes that no senior should have to choose between their own well-being and their pet.

This grant will allow the Pet Food Program to help the pets of additional senior citizens served by Catawba County Senior Nutrition Services, which is a part of Catawba County Social Services. The grant will pay for dog or cat food, bags and labels for repackaging the pet food, storage bins, and gas expenses.

“We appreciate the help that Banfield Charitable Trust has provided to meet the needs of senior citizens and their animal companions,” said Amanda Munden, Meals on Wheels coordinator. “We also appreciate the Catawba County 4-H Clubs and Catawba County Youth Council, who have assisted in repackaging and organizing the pet food donations.”

The county’s 4-H Clubs are currently conducting a Pet Food Drive to benefit the pets of Senior Nutrition clients. Their drive will continue through January, and will help even more pets belonging to Catawba County senior citizens.

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