

# CATAWBA COUNTY EMS HARDSHIP FUND, INCORPORATED

Post Office Box 389  
Newton, North Carolina 28658



Elayne Sinclair, President  
Bryan Blanton, Vice President  
Debra Bechtel, Secretary  
Greg Johnson, Treasurer

Charlie McKarاهر  
Corky Upchurch  
Steve Von Drehle

## CATAWBA COUNTY EMS EMPLOYEES SET UP HARDSHIP FUND

Catawba County EMS Employees recently established the Catawba County EMS Hardship Fund, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to provide emergency assistance to EMS personnel who work for Catawba County.

“The creation of the fund is a result of what our staff faced as we were trying to help an EMS employee who was stricken with cancer,” said Bryan Blanton, Catawba County EMS Manager. “As employees scrambled to provide assistance, some of us realized this type of situation would inevitably come up again and they wanted to be prepared. Many emergency medical personnel have other jobs in addition to volunteering in the community. When a catastrophe such as a serious illness strikes, they often aren’t able to work or volunteer in their other capacities as well. This can be devastating for the employee and his or her family. Financial need is strong in such situations, but there are also many other needs that we are hoping this fund will help them address.”

Though financial support is always appreciated greatly by those who receive it, having assistance with chores can be just as important. To better address this type of need, the Hardship Fund has also established a list of volunteer employees who are willing to offer practical help such as mowing the lawn, preparing food, providing respite care, or any other assistance an employee may need.

Donations, which are tax deductible, will be gratefully accepted. Checks may also be mailed to Catawba County EMS Hardship Fund, PO Box 389, Newton NC 28658.

The Hardship Fund will be managed by a Board of Directors. Board members include: Elayne Sinclair, President; Bryan Blanton, Vice-President; Greg Johnson, Treasurer; Debra Bechtel, Secretary; Steve von Drehle, Corky Upchurch and Dr. Charlie McKarاهر.

All of the board members felt very strongly about providing assistance to those willing to make personal sacrifices and administer emergency care to the public each and every day.

“EMS personnel do so much for our community and this is an opportunity for us to give back to them,” said Board member Steve von Drehle.

EMS employees are contributing their time and money to the fund so, when an emergency occurs, they are ready to help immediately. For example, a very successful fundraiser was held in March following the death of the employee who was stricken with cancer. The proceeds assisted the family with funeral expenses.

For further information about the Catawba County EMS Hardship Fund, you may contact Bryan Blanton, Catawba County EMS Manager, at 828-465-8234.