



## CATAWBA COUNTY

P.O. BOX 669 Newton, North Carolina 28658-0669 (828) 695-5600

Catawba County Social Services

**CONTACT:** Margaret Allen, Catawba County Social Services Public Information Officer,  
[mallen@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:mallen@catawbacountync.gov), 828-695-6583

### **CATAWBA COUNTY'S MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM PARTICIPATING IN NATIONAL COMPETITION**

**Hickory** – Catawba County Meals on Wheels has won \$100 from the Meals On Wheels Association of America's (MOWAA)/Subaru "Share the Love" grant program. The winning essay, which follows this news release, describes how Meals on Wheels brightens the holidays for seniors in the community.

Catawba County Meals on Wheels is now entering the next phase of the holiday competition – which relies on getting the most Facebook users to "Like" the local story. The Meals On Wheels program with the most "Likes" will win an additional \$500. Those placing second through tenth will receive an additional \$250. To vote for the Catawba County essay in this Facebook contest, go to <http://mowaablog.org/?p=804> and click "Like." You must be a Facebook member to vote in this contest.

"Meals on Wheels is so much more than a meal," said Amanda Munden, coordinator of the Catawba County program. "The volunteers take the time to show extra care to the meal recipients by bringing cards and puzzles, setting their clocks, bringing in the newspaper and even carrying out the garbage. Churches in the community also share the love by preparing special weekend and holiday meals."

Catawba County Meals on Wheels is a program of Catawba County Social Services. For additional information about how you can become a volunteer or make a direct donation, contact Jan Shaffer at [jshaffer@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:jshaffer@catawbacountync.gov) or call 828-695-5617.

The money comes at a critical time for the Catawba County Meals On Wheels program, and the more than 140 other grant winners nationwide. The country's economic downturn has made it more difficult to raise money to continue feeding our community's homebound and other hungry seniors. Catawba County Meals on Wheels plans to use the money to purchase more meals.

The MOWAA/Subaru "Share the Love" grant is tied to Subaru's Share the Love Event. This event will run from Nov. 20 through Jan. 3. Subaru will donate \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased to the customer's choice of one of five charities, including MOWAA.

For more information about Subaru's Share the Love Event, go to <http://media.subaru.com/index.php?s=43&item=201>

"These Meals On Wheels programs share love every day by bringing food and companionship to America's hungry seniors," said MOWAA President and CEO Enid Borden. "For the third year in a row, Subaru has generously included Meals On Wheels in its Share the Love Event. We want the world to read these stories and find out more about what these amazing Meals On Wheels programs do every day to 'Share the Love' in their communities."

### **Catawba County's Meals on Wheels Essay:**

Meals on Wheels of Catawba County has partnered with a local florist, Whitfield's Florist of Hickory, NC. For several years, the florist has graciously donated poinsettias to provide holiday cheer to our homebound seniors. The florist donated over 200 poinsettias last year alone. Meals on Wheels volunteers delivered a poinsettia to each meal recipient before the Christmas holiday.

Last year's poinsettia delivery included a visit from Conrad the Crawdad, the mascot of the local minor league baseball team, the Hickory Crawdads. Conrad delivered a poinsettia to an 87 year old gentleman on one of the meal routes. This client is an avid baseball fan and played on a local textile league as a young man. He would have continued with a possible career in baseball but was drafted into the army to fight in WWII. When the volunteers arrived at his door, he was so excited. He reminisced with Conrad and the volunteers about his love of baseball. He was very emotional as he thanked the mascot and volunteers for visiting with him. We hope to continue the tradition in the coming years to brighten the holidays for our seniors.

### ***About Meals On Wheels Association of America***

*The Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) is the oldest and largest national organization in the United States representing those programs that provide meals to people in need. MOWAA's mission is to end senior hunger by 2020. To obtain more information about MOWAA or to locate a local Meals On Wheels program, visit the MOWAA website at [www.mowaa.org](http://www.mowaa.org).*