



CATAWBA COUNTY

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WILLIAMS-SONOMA EMPLOYEES DONATE BICYCLES TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

HICKORY — Forty Catawba County children in foster care will get a new bicycle and bike helmet for Christmas, thanks to the employees of the Williams-Sonoma plant in Claremont.

This is the third year the employees have donated bicycles to Catawba County's children in foster care who have asked for a bicycle on their Christmas wish list, according to Marjorie Manko, an adoption social worker with Family Builders of Catawba County, the adoption and foster care unit of Catawba County Social Services.

Pam Sipe, an order-entry employee at Williams-Sonoma, explained that the bicycle donation was a project of the Community Action Group at the plant. The employees volunteer to serve on the group, which selects projects to benefit the community.

She said members of the group wanted to do something for children and decided on this project. The funds are donated by the employees, Sipe explained.

The bicycles will be distributed as part of a larger Angel Tree program to provide Christmas gifts to the 189 children in foster care, Manko explained. Many county employers and churches placed an Angel Tree in their organization. On each paper angel is the first name of a child and a list of items they would like to receive for Christmas. Employees, members or customers take the angels and purchase the requested items, which are then organized for distribution in mid-December.

“We really want to thank all the companies and organizations,” Manko said. “Some have been participating for more than 10 years. Thanks to their generosity, our children in foster care will have gifts on Christmas Day.”

The groups that participated in this year's Foster Children's Angel Tree Program are as follows: First Presbyterian Church of Hickory, Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church of Bethlehem, Great Clips of Hickory, State Employees Credit Union of Hickory, Transportation Insight of Hickory, Camfil Farr of Conover, Xquisite Salon of Hickory, Trends Salon of Conover, Rehobeth United Methodist Church of Terrell, Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Frye Regional Medical Center Pediatric Unit of Hickory, Café Gouda of Hickory,



Catawba County Social Services employee Kim Vines holds one of the 40 bicycles donated by William Sonoma employees for children in foster care. The Foster Care Angel Tree Program will provide Christmas gifts for approximately 189 children in foster care this year.

Good's Home Furnishings of Hickory, Springs Road Branch of BB&T, Thrivent Financial Terry Hollar Office, Gateway Baptist Church of Hickory, Williams-Sonoma of Hickory, Graystone Surgery Center of Hickory, The Perfect Workout of Newton, and Newsome Tires of Newton.

Donations are accepted year round for the Foster Care Children's Expense Fund, which pays for the extras that make life memorable for foster children, such as yearbooks, school pictures, band instruments and field trips. You may now donate online to this and other Social Services special funds. Just go to <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss> and click on the red "Donate Now" button. You may also donate by making out a check out to Catawba County Social Services and writing the name of the fund in the memo line. Checks may be mailed to Catawba County Social Services, P.O. Box 669, Newton, NC 28658. For more information about the Foster Care Children's Expense Fund, call 828-695-4536.