



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK ACTIVITIES PLANNED IN CATAWBA COUNTY

HICKORY -- Housing Visions: A Continuum of Care will hold a week of activities designed to draw attention to the issue of Hunger and Homelessness in Catawba County. These special activities will begin Sunday, Nov. 16, and end Saturday, Nov. 22.

The public is invited to attend any of these events. The activities are free, but donations to benefit local persons experiencing homelessness will be accepted. Suggested donations include hats, coats, gloves, socks, backpacks, flashlights, batteries, sleeping bags and tents. Monetary donations may be made by writing a check to Catawba County United Way and writing "Housing Visions" in the memo line.

Housing Visions is a consortium of area agencies and non-profits that deal with issues of hunger and homelessness, including the Salvation Army, Catawba County Social Services, the Hickory Soup Kitchen, Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries, and Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries, among others.

On Sunday morning, Nov. 16, participants are invited to gather for a worship service on the Square in Hickory beginning with breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by the service beginning at 8:30 a.m. This service is held weekly by Our Father's Pavilion for persons who are homeless.

On Monday, Nov. 17, the documentary film "Homeless in America" will be shown at the Belk Centrum on the Lenoir-Rhyne University campus at 6:30-8 p.m. This film provides an in-depth, first-hand look into what it means to be homeless in the land of opportunity and freedom.

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, the Hickory Soup Kitchen will open its doors to the public to participate in a bingo game with persons who are homeless.

On Wednesday, an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet will be held at 6:30-8 p.m. at the Bear's Lair Atrium on the Lenoir-Rhyne University campus. Participants in this experience will receive different meals and seats depending on the luck of the draw. The night's event challenges assumptions about poverty, hunger and injustice and is sure to be memorable. Pre-registration is required for this free event, and seating is limited. Register at <http://student.lr.edu/community-service/hunger-banquet/registration>. For more information about this event, call 828-328-7025.

On Thursday, Nov. 20, there will be a panel discussion and forum on "The Younger Faces of Homelessness" from noon to 2 p.m. at the Tarlton Complex on the Catawba Valley Community College campus. Lunch will be provided.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, "In Their Shoes," a walk and cookout, will be held. Beginning with a walk at 10 a.m., the event will end with lunch at Grace House at 11:30 a.m. Participants will park at the Salvation Army and walk to Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries, then to the Hickory Soup Kitchen, and conclude at Grace House Day Shelter. Vans will be provided for those unable to make the walk, but who are interested in the experience.