



## SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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### **iCARE TOUR TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL EFFORTS TO FIGHT POVERTY**

Catawba County residents are invited to participate in the 2013 iCare Tour on Friday, June 21. Participants must pre-register to reserve their place.

The tour offers a unique experience for participants to understand subjects such as homelessness, hunger, advocacy, safety and general wellbeing. It will also help them learn about opportunities to partner with local agencies addressing those needs.

The tour will last from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Participants will travel by bus to visit nine non-profit agencies in the county. This event is organized by Congregations and Community, a faith community task force.

Participants in the iCare Tour will hear the experiences of those who have benefitted from the services provided by these local agencies. With the current economy, many individuals, children and families receive these services with the assistance of partnerships throughout the community.

Participants will gather at 7:45-8:15 a.m. St. Luke's United Methodist Church at 52 16th Ave. NW, Hickory, where they will sign in and eat breakfast. Participants will board buses at 8:15 a.m. for the tour. They will visit the following locations: Adult Life Programs, Children's Advocacy & Protection Center, Exodus Homes/Exodus Works, Girls and Boys Club and Grace House. The group will stop for lunch at the Hickory Soup Kitchen. Then they will visit the Resource Warehouse and Gallery/Safe Harbor, followed by the Salvation Army, Sipe's Orchard Home/Cognitive Connection. The vans will return to St. Luke's at 3:45 p.m. for a roundtable discussion. The event will conclude no later than 4:30 p.m.

Pre-registration is required for the iCare Tour. The \$5 registration fee includes breakfast and lunch. Participants will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis until all seats are filled. No pre-registrations will be accepted after June 19.

You may pre-register by mail by sending your check for \$5 along with your name, address, organization, phone number and email address to Catawba County Social Services, Attention: iCare Tour, P.O. Box 669, Newton, N.C. 28658. Please make your checks payable to Catawba County Social Services and write "iCare Tour" in the memo line.

Pre-registration may also be completed by calling 828-695-5648 or emailing your name, organization, address, phone number and email address to [afreeland@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:afreeland@catawbacountync.gov).

Online payment of the registration fee may be made at <https://www.velocitypayment.com/client/catawba/socialservices/index.htm>. Under "fund type," specify "Other" and then specify "iCare Tour."

Sponsorships are still being accepted to make this event possible. If you, your business or church would like to volunteer your time or make a donation, contact Amanda Freeland at 828-695-5648.

Congregations and Community meets monthly to identify services that can be supported and/or provided by congregations throughout the community, determine the means by which these services will be provided, develop an ecumenical group of congregations for communicating and cooperatively meeting pressing human service needs in the Hickory area, by building bridges between community groups and congregations. Meetings are held at First Presbyterian Church of Hickory the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information about Congregations and Community, contact Eddie Broussard at [ebroussard@ebroussard.com](mailto:ebroussard@ebroussard.com) or go to <http://www.meetup.com/CandCofCC>.