



CATAWBA COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES NOW HAS ONLINE DONATION SITE

HICKORY, N.C. — Catawba County Social Services can now accept online donations to several funds that provide assistance to citizens in need.

These funds were established over the years to provide for special needs that are not fully funded by federal, state or local tax dollars. “For many years, our employees have been aware of various special needs that are not covered by any program, or that are not fully funded,” explained John Eller, director of Catawba County Social Services. “These funds were created to accept donations from the public. In recent years, these donations have become more important than ever. To make it easier to donate, we have established an online donation capability. Persons wishing to give to these programs may log onto our website and securely donate by credit card to help their fellow citizens in need.”

Persons can now donate by credit card to the following funds:

- The Backpack Program, which sends home a backpack of nutritious food with school children in need every weekend of the school year. This program is a partnership with Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries. It is funded entirely by local donations and operated by local volunteers.
- The Children’s Book Station, which provides free books to children coming to the Food Assistance office with their parents or guardians. The lobby has a small book station that children may enjoy. They may take a book home with them if they do not finish it during their visit.
- The Foster Care Children’s Expense Fund, which provides children in foster care with the extras that make life memorable, such as school pictures, band instruments, field trips and Christmas gifts.
- Teen Up, which offers information, activities, counseling and support to youths, ages 9-17, to encourage responsible decisions about adolescent issues.
- The LINKS program helps adolescents in foster care learn independent living and leadership skills.
- The Gretchen Peed Scholarship Fund, which helps teens transitioning out of foster care attend college.
- The Grace McLeod Adult Services Fund, which helps senior citizens and disabled persons in emergency situations.
- Meals on Wheels, which delivers nutritious meals to home-bound elderly and disabled persons.

- Seniors Morning Out, which provides a free meal and social activities for senior persons in the county.

To make a donation to any of these funds, go to <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss> and click on the “Donate Now” button. To learn more about any of these funds, go to <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/donations.asp>.