

First Choice Housing in Monroe Participates in Large Contribution to Nonprofit Military Support Group

First Choice Housing, Inc., located at 2008 East Roosevelt Boulevard (Highway 74) in Monroe, announced their participation in a contribution to the Hope for the Warriors, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring a sense of self, restoring the family unit, and restoring hope for post 9/11 active duty, National Guard, and reserve service members and veterans from all branches of the military. Their programs also serve military families, families of the fallen and military caregivers.

A check presentation was held in Louisville, Kentucky at the Kentucky Expo Center on January 21, where a representative from the Hope for the Warriors organization, Jessica McKinney, was on hand to accept the contribution from the Clayton home building group President Keith Holdbrooks and CEO Kevin Clayton in the amount of \$33,600.

"We are honored to accept this generous donation which enables us to continue serving thousands of military families across the country," McKinney stated. "One of our core values is to meet the changing needs of service members and their families, and it is through donations like these that we are able to achieve our goals."

The contribution is tied to the Patriot Home, a thoughtfully designed 3 bedroom, 2 bath home that gleams exciting features such as granite island countertop in the kitchen, a huge walk-in tile shower in the master bath, and a spacious craft and laundry area. For every Patriot home purchased the retailer, a \$100 pledge is committed to the organization.

"To team with First Choice and our other retailer partners to make a difference for an organization like Hope for the Warriors makes us proud," Clayton home building group President Holdbrooks said. "These are men and women and their families who sacrificed for all of us to enjoy the freedoms we have. We are fortunate to have found a group that is doing the right thing, and proud that we can be a part of that effort."

Hope for the Warriors believes those touched by military service can succeed at home by restoring their sense of self, family and hope. Nationally, Hope for the Warriors provides comprehensive support programs for service members, veterans and military families that are focused on tradition, health and wellness, peer engagement, and connections to community resources.

Extension Notes When the Power Goes Out

We dodged a bullet, as they like to say, in this past ice storm. The ice could have been a whole lot worse, and our power companies and linemen have done an outstanding job preparing lines for winter weather. Our power only blinked twice. Thank you more than we can say! However, you never know when the big one will hit, and this is an El Nino year. It is always better to be safe than sorry, and we may not be so lucky with that bullet next time. So prepare now for power outages due to winter weather. Here are a few tips for planning in regards to food.

Place a thermometer in your fridge and freezer, so that you will know how cold or warm it is if the power goes out. Freeze containers of water for ice to help keep appliances cold. Plan ahead by preparing coolers and knowing where ice suppliers are and how you can get to them.

Have food items on hand that do not require refrigeration and can be eaten cold or heated on an outdoor grill. Have a tip-sensitive digital thermometer ready to check foods for both storing and cooking temperatures.

If you do have a power outage, keep doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature. With the door closed, food in most freezers will stay below 41 degrees for up to three days. A closed fridge will keep food below 41 degrees only about four hours.

Thawing rates in freezers depend on the amount of food in the freezer, the kind of food, the temperature of the food and the size and insulation of the freezer. That is where the frozen containers of water come in. Fill up empty space to keep food frozen longer.

And if the power goes out, what can you keep? Foods that can safely be stored above 41 degrees for a few days include whole non-cut fresh fruits and vegetables, ketchup, relishes, olives, jams and jellies, mustard, bbq sauce, soy sauce, bread, rolls, bagels, cakes (without cream or custard), cookies, muffins and certain hard cheeses.

You can also safely refreeze foods that still contain ice crystals or that have been kept at 41 degrees or below. Remember that unsafe food may not appear or smell to be spoiled. So err on the side of caution, and if in doubt, throw it out. *By Janine B. Rywak, County Extension Director*

BRLC's Kids Café to Present Culture Awareness Event and Supper

This is a release from BRLC: The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center afterschool students will host 'Diverse Cultural' on Friday, February 26 at 6 p.m. The production was created by the afterschool students under the direction of teacher Ms. K. Watkins and volunteer staff. The program will be filled with music, dance, singing and scripts. Children will bring to life characters from the past and present that havehelp create their nationality and culture.

Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. Come and enjoy the production and great food. The production is free to all. Donations are accepted.

Free Groceries - Mobile Food Pantry is March 2

The Mobile Food Pantry will be at Wingate United Methodist Church, located at 109 Hinson Street in Wingate on Wednesday, March 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. Do not arrive before 9:30 a.m., but come by 11 a.m. If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, call 704-694-2445 to hear if it is cancelled. If you have not yet done so, bring proof of your income to register. You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

This event is sponsored by Anson Crisis Ministry and local United Methodist, Baptist, Apostolic and Presbyterian Churches.

Interested in volunteering? Call Wingate UMC Pastor, Rev. Lue Vang (704) 626-9101 or Pantry Coordinator, Rev. Cindy Lunsford (828) 891-2753.

Blood Drive at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School

The Community Blood Center of the Carolinas will hold a blood drive on Tuesday, February 23 at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School, from 2 to 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. You can make an appointment at www.cbcc.us and walk-ins are welcome. You must present a current, officially issued photo id to donate. All donated blood stays here, saving local lives.

Students and their families are encouraged to participate. The homeroom at school that has the most participants to show up to donate blood will get an opportunity to have a pizza party or ice cream party. Each student who has a family member/friend to show up to donate blood will get a t-shirt.

More information is available at www.cbcc.us or by calling 704-972-4700. You can follow CBCC at Facebook /BloodCenter or Twitter @CBCCCarolinas.

SPREAD OUT!!! SECTIONAL SOFA WITH 4 RECLINERS



LIGHTS IN THE CUPHOLDERS!

ALL ARMRESTS HAVE STORAGE!

20% OFF ALL RECLINERS

LOCAL DELIVERY \$25 Through 2/29/2016



MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET

Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-3185

ANSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

offers
Reproductive Health Services regardless of inability to pay,
funded by Title X Reproductive Health Services.
We offer a physical for **women, men and teens.**
(most insurance plans accepted)

CONFIDENTIAL PREGNANCY PREVENTION

Call us for an appointment:
704-694-5188 ext. 3320
Careful Planning for a **Brighter**

Future!

YOU decide when you are ready
for a baby.

ACDVC BBQ FUNDRAISER

ANSON COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION

FRIDAY FEB 26th 10am-6pm

First Presbyterian Church • Wadesboro
208 South Greene Street

Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition and their many generous sponsors are having their annual BBQ to raise funds for ACDVC and to promote community awareness against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault.

Plates Include: Chopped BBQ, Slaw, Baked Beans, Rolls & Dessert...Yum!!

Plate \$8 • Sandwich \$3 • BBQ Quart Bag \$20
BBQ Pint Bag \$10 • Drinks included for eat-in

Take Out Orders Available

Call In or Fax Your Order • Deliveries 11am until
704-694-4499 or Fax 704-694-4515
Deliveries courtesy of Anson Sheriff's Office

The Anson County Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center is a nonprofit organization funded solely by grants and fundraisers. We thank you for your donations and continued support!!

It's our Birthday. Come Celebrate!

DISCOVERY PLACE

KIDS

ROCKINGHAM

Visit Saturday, February 21
and receive
FREE ADMISSION.

Book a Birthday Party by February 28 and get **10% OFF**

discoveryplaceKIDS.org | 910.997.5266 x300