



United Way
of Rockingham County

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PRESS RELEASE

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UNITED WAY HELPS RESTOCK RED CROSS PANTRY

WENTWORTH, NC, NOVEMBER 17, 2005: United Way of Rockingham County campaign chair Dr. Bob Shackleford announced today that it has donated \$4,500 to the Rockingham County Chapter of the American Red Cross to help restock their food pantry. The money was presented November 16 to Jana Nowell, executive director of the Rockingham County Chapter of the American Red Cross and will be used to purchase items from the Second Harvest Food Bank in Winston-Salem.

As a rule, donations designated to the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund can be used for that purpose only. According to Nowell, the people of Rockingham County designated more than \$130,000 toward the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund. “We did not keep any of that money, all of it went to the hurricane relief effort in the Gulf,” Nowell said.

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In the meantime, the food pantry at the Red Cross is nearly bare. Higher energy costs and the impending cold weather have already resulted in an increased number of requests for assistance. Last month alone 168 families used the food pantry located on Highway 14. “There are so many young people coming in these days, some are homeless and one didn’t even have shoes,” Nowell said.

The American Red Cross of Rockingham County is also accepting donations of food to help maintain the food pantry during the coming months. Among the items needed include canned meats, such as tuna and chicken, peanut butter and cereals for children. Nowell said they are also in need of canned stews and soups, especially those with pop-top style lids for those who have no can opener.

According to United Way of Rockingham County executive director Richard K. Hurley, an emergency fund was created using funds from last year’s campaign. “This is the kind of emergency that our board of directors wanted to be prepared for,” Hurley stated, “and we are fortunate to have such a generous community that is willing to meet these needs.”

“We don’t want our agencies to have to turn people away,” added Shackleford. “The needs are great, but the capacity of Rockingham County citizens to give is even greater.” If you would like more information on how you can support United Way of Rockingham County with a contribution, call (336) 342-7768 or visit www.uwrockingham.org.

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United Way of Rockingham County is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in the county seat of Wentworth, NC and continues to build financial as well as organizational support for the 21 member agencies serving the Rockingham County community, including the Rockingham County Chapter of the American Red Cross. For more information, contact UWRC at (336) 342-7768 or on the web at www.uwrockingham.org.

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