

UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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AN ACCREDITED AGENCY

News Release

Foster and Adoptive Parents Walk a Huge Success

May 24, 2012, Monroe, NC – It was a sea of baby blue t-shirts this past Saturday morning at Don Griffin Memorial Park in Monroe as more than 100 foster parents, children and community volunteers participated the first annual Walk for the Children sponsored by the Union County Foster Parent Association and the Union County Department of Social Services.

The event was held to help raise awareness for the need for foster parents in Union County and to celebrate the tremendous contribution that the foster families have given to children in foster care. Baby blue t- shirts to commemorate the walk were available from the Union County Foster Parent Association.

Event activities included horse and pony rides, crafts, games, football, soccer, bean bag tournament and face painting. Participants received information regarding foster parenting in Union County as well as information on adoption. The Monroe Police Department assisted with the Walk for the Children and the Monroe Fire Department provided tours and explanations about the fire truck they brought to the park.

Community partners who helped to make the event such a great success included students from the Forest Hills High School Global Awareness AP class, Diamond Springs Water, Pepsi Cola Bottling Company, Snyder's-Lance, Harris Teeter, Dunkin Donuts, Krispy Kreme, Starbucks Coffee Company, Monterey Mexican Restaurant, Little Caesar's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Piedmont Ice Company, Wal-Mart, Piedmont Dentistry, Monroe Fire Department, Union County Sheriff's Department and Monroe Police Department.

“We would like to acknowledge all of those who graciously donated their time, products and services,” said Josie Calaway, Union County Foster Parent Association president “Without their thoughtfulness and generosity, we could not have made this event a success. We truly appreciate their donations and presence as we embrace and support our foster children and families.”

“This is wonderful,” said John Holtkamp, director of the Union County Department of Social Services “There are events that drain your batteries and ones that re-charge you. This was a charging up event.”

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent in Union County, please contact Sandra Harkness at 704-296-4469. Union County has more than 70 children in their care and only slightly more than 40 foster homes to meet this need. Please call!