

Newsire for November 2005 ...

Providing information on Vision Partner activities, needs, and successes

- **New Vision Partner for November:** Collins Dental Service Center. They are interested in the dental care of children in Rutherford and Polk counties.
- **Ruby Arrowood has been hired as the new Program Coordinator for Realize Rutherford.** Please join us in welcoming her to our organization. The Realize Rutherford office will be located at the United Way offices in Forest City. Ruby will be sending notification of her new contact information shortly. Welcome aboard!
- **Rutherford County Economic Development Commission** would like to announce:
 - Simeus Foods International, Inc. will be creating fifty new jobs and a plant expansion over the next six months. For more information go to: http://rutherfordncedc.com/rutherford_news_detail.asp?article-id=426320750.
 - Kerry Giles has been named the new Marketing Director for the Rutherford County Economic Development Commission.
- **Mentoring Initiative:** Vernon and Tami Shultz addressed the meeting of Rutherford Hospital physicians on October 27th concerning after school programs, and Tami specifically talked about the program model at **The Master's Academy** for 11-17year olds. After school programs can energize parental involvement through contractual agreements, and offer programs for parents who struggle with their teens. There may also be potential, in cooperation with ICC, to encourage more parents without high school diplomas or GED's to pursue study toward those goals as a part of their child's work in an after school program. Physicians can help with mentoring, Job shadowing, and appearances at program functions to discuss health issues.
- Catch an all-new episode of UNC-TV's Our State! Our State, offers an in-depth look at the people and places that make North Carolina great! Wednesday, November 2, at 8 PM, Our State visits Rutherford County's **Washburn General Store**, an old-fashioned hardware store that stocks many of the items your grandfather would have found indispensable. If you can't catch the show on Wednesday night, don't despair—tune in for an encore broadcast Thursday, November 3, at 9:30 PM!
- **Rutherford County Tourism:**
 - Check out the following link about the new State Park to be created in Hickory Nut Gorge!
http://www.rutherfordtourism.com/hngstatepark/State_Park.pdf.
 - HGTV Dream Home to be open to the public from January-March 2006 at Grey Rock Development in Lake Lure. For more information go to: http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/pac_ctnt_947/text/0,1783,HGTV_19176_30484,FF.html
- **Kidsenses** November Activities Include (Free with admission, Members are free):
 - Exhibit Election '05 - Throughout the month, visit each exhibit and see why they think they should be considered "the best." Then, vote for the exhibit you think is best. A graph will keep track of the results through the month.
 - National Author's Month - Celebrate great authors with us as we focus on a different children's book writer each week. There will be storytelling, art activities, and information about children's authors.
 - Children's Book Week - 14th - 20th. Have a favorite book? Bring it in and use the "Reading Throne" in Lights! Camera! Action! to share it with visitors. Why is it your favorite? What did it teach you? The stage is yours to shine from!
 - Tree of Thanks - 14th - 24th. Think about what you are thankful for and write it on a leaf. Then, with the help of a grown up, attach it to the Big Climber. Everyone will see the many things our visitors are thankful for.
 - I "Dig" Dinosaurs: Super Science Saturday - 19th. Come and excavate (dig up) model dinosaurs in our one-day "Dino Dig." Have fun digging and learning everything you want to know about dinosaurs. 11am-2pm.
 - Closing at 2pm (To the kitchen we go!) ~ 23rd and Closed for Thanksgiving (Gobble, Gobble) ~ 24th
 - Parents MORNING Out: Rise and Shine with KidSenses! - 25th. A morning of seasonal fun, games, crafts, and the chance to have KidSenses to yourself. Parents, take advantage of our early hours to get some stuff done. A light breakfast will be served. 7am-12pm. \$12 for members/\$15 for non-members. Ages 4-10, Advanced Registration is required. *Drop off is any time between 7am and 9am.
- **Safe Kids of Rutherford County** need the help of volunteers dedicated to the health and well being of our young citizens. If you would like to assist in car seat checks, bicycle helmet distributions or and other safety factor that may come to mind please contact Dr. Chris Burley at 828-245-2442.
- **Rutherford County Schools** would like to announce:
 - Ms. Tanya Watson has been named Director of Federal Programs and Professional Development for Rutherford County Schools. Ms. Watson most recently served Rutherford County Schools as an assistant principal at Chase Middle School.
 - A report released by the NC Dept. of Public Instruction shows that Rutherford County Schools' teacher turnover rate remains one of the lowest in the state. Last year's turnover rate was 7.11%, which was the 10th lowest of North Carolina's 115 school districts. Our average turnover rate for the past five years was 7.40%, which was the seventh lowest in the state.
 - Rutherford County Schools has purchased a new rapid communication tool called ALERTNOW, which will provide a means to quickly notify staff, parents, and students of important information. ALERTNOW will deliver emergency communications, help with attendance and truancy issues, increase parent involvement at school events, and provide a means of polling the community about important school-related issues. ALERTNOW will be deployed during the month of November.

- This is a friendly reminder to submit your pledge cards for the 2005 **United Way** Campaign of Rutherford County. This year, Fair Share givers will receive discount cards to be used for local merchants that offer special discounts on goods or services. A Fair Share donation is equal to 1.5 hours of salary per month. If you, or your company, would like to help the United Way, please contact Burt Lathan, our 2005 campaign chairman, at 828-286-7546. Companies that have 100% employee participation will receive United Way plaques and special recognition in the end of campaign press release. 100% means all employees pledge donations (donations do not have to be Fair Share amounts to be counted). Individual donations are also gladly accepted in lump sums or monthly donations.
- **SWEEP**, the county's volunteer recycling committee, championed the first state/county funded Swap Shop at Gilkey Convenience Center for residents to leave "not-ready-for-the-dump" goods for others to take away. Opened in April and estimate that a ton a week is diverted from the landfill.
- **Mountains Branch Library** would like to announce Adrian Rice (Irish Poet) will be at the Library on Sunday, November 6, 2005 at 3:00 pm. For more information go to www.adrianrice.com.
- The **Literacy Council** conducted its annual "Fall Into a Good Book" event on Oct. 10 at Kidsenses Museum. More than 350 people attended and were treated to entertainment, crafts projects and each child received a new book. Students from 25 schools attended the event and more than 104 volunteers gave more than 400 hours of their time to make the event a success. Co-Chairs Nancy Bayley and Sally Claroni organized the event with the help of the staff at KidSenses.
- **Cooperative Extension** would like to announce:
 - Annual Holiday Sampler will be held Saturday, November 19 at 1:00 at Cooperative Extension, 193 Callahan Koon Road, Spindale. This year's theme, "Festive Settings", will feature craft demonstrations, taste samples, door prizes, and take-home recipes. "How-to" demonstrations include Holiday Tablescape, Outdoor Decorating, and Homemade Pralines. Admission is \$10; tickets available in advance by calling 287-6020.
 - Foothills GRG (Grandparents Raising Grandchildren) Support Group meets November 8 at 6:30 pm at Cooperative Extension. Any adult raising a relative's child is invited to come. Call 287-6020 for more information.
- **Hospice of Rutherford County** November Events:
 - Grace Support Group: Second Tuesday of each month from 6 pm until 8 pm at the Hospice House, 372 Hudlow Road, Forest City. This group is for anyone caring for a loved one.
 - On My Own Series: Friday, November 18 from 1 pm until 3 pm, Coping with Grief During the Holidays, Featuring Dr. Thomas LaBreche at the Hospice Annette Cash Whitaker Center of Living.
 - Promise Support Group: Conducted the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. The group is for any parent who has lost a child at any age.
 - Widow/Widower's Lunch Bunch Meeting: Third Friday of each month at Spindale Restaurant. Dutch treat from 11:30 am until 1 pm for anyone in the community who has lost a spouse.
 - Rainbows Christmas: Thursday, December 1st at 6 pm at the Hospice Center of Living, Elementary and middle school age children who have lost loved ones can make ornaments in their memory. Ornaments are displayed December 8 during the Festival of Trees.
 - Rainbows/Tag: Conducted within the school system and at Hospice, these six week support groups are for children and teens who have lost loved ones. The groups also provide educational information for parents to help their children deal with grief. Call for the next available group.
 - Sing Along at the Hospice House: December 14 at 11 am join Malone Thomason for Christmas music.
 - Volunteer Training: January 16 Through January 18 from 10 am until 3 pm at Mountains Branch Library off Bill's Creek Road in Lake Lure and January 23 through January 26 from 6 pm until 9 pm at the Hospice Center of Living. There is a \$15 materials fee that is refunded if you become an active volunteer.
 - Teens and Grief: Hospice of Rutherford County will offer a support group for any teenager in the community who has lost a loved one. The support group "Teens and Grief" will be conducted for six consecutive Thursdays beginning November 10 at 4 pm at the Hospice Annette Cash Whitaker Center of Living, 374 Hudlow Road, Forest City.

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