

UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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AN ACCREDITED AGENCY

News Release

Surplus food available for those in need

May 11, 2010, Monroe, NC - The Union County Department of Social Services will be taking applications for persons who wish to receive surplus food provided by the federal government on Wednesday, May 19 from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Union County DSS is located at 1212 West Roosevelt Boulevard in Monroe. The next food distribution will be held on Wednesday, May 26 at the National Guard Armory in Monroe.

The United States Department of Agriculture provides surplus food to counties throughout the United States four times each year at no cost to the agencies distributing the food. The surplus food is made available to individuals and families who meet certain income guidelines.

To be eligible to receive surplus food, an individual is required to either be an active, approved Food Stamp program participant or meet the Secretary of Agriculture's income poverty guidelines based upon household income and size. Food Stamp recipients are automatically eligible and do not need to apply.

During 2009, DSS distributed more than \$165,000 worth of food to 6,127 households in Union County. Since 2001, the number of households receiving food has increased 266 percent.

The food provided to Union County by the USDA for the May 26 distribution is valued at \$76,472. The commodity foods which are scheduled to be distributed include beef stew, frozen blueberries, carrots, cheese, cherry apple juice, canned chicken, whole frozen chicken, great northern beans, green peas, dry milk, UHT milk, mushroom soup, orange juice, pears, peas, pork, potatoes, and tomato soup.

“At the most recent distribution in March we were able to provide food to 1,552 households in Union County,” said Gloria Haney, volunteer services coordinator for Union County DSS. “More than 54 volunteers assisted during the three-day distribution by packing boxes, providing clerical assistance, and assisting clients with getting food to their cars.”

Anyone with questions about the food distribution program or who would like to volunteer during distribution should call Gloria Haney at 704-296-4312.

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