



Union County Crisis Assistance Ministry provides emergency assistance with housing and utilities to neighbors in need who do not qualify for public assistance. In the month of December, the generosity of our supporters enabled us to assist **124** clients. We provided housing payments for **78** clients, utility payments for **30** clients as well as medical prescription assistance and food to other clients in need. Our staff also made **798** referrals connecting our clients to other resources.

This assistance was made possible by the generosity of individuals, churches, businesses, schools and organizations in our community.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Crisis Assistance Ministry is an agency designed to meet the needs of others, but we are so often blessed beyond measure by the clients that we serve. In December, 2011, Gloria Barrino, CAM's Executive Director, took a phone call that has reaped enormous benefits on many levels.

On the other end of the phone line was Donna Hyatt, an amazing client who was diagnosed with ductile carcinoma breast cancer in October 2010. Within days the prognosis had worsened. After biopsies, surgeries, thirty-six radiation treatments (completed) and six hard chemo treatments (still ongoing), there is no sign of cancer, but the treatments and heavy medications over the past year have left Ms. Hyatt with many side effects. She now has debilitating neuropathy in her hands and feet, a chamber in her heart has been affected, and she has developed a blood clot stemming from the chemo port in her shoulder which may take months to dissolve. She has also suffered from the usual effects of radiation and chemo, such as the loss of her wavy, long hair, weight gain and extreme fatigue.

Ms. Hyatt said she can see the light at the end of the tunnel from the cancer, but the same cannot be said for her financial prognosis. Her marriage to a

mentally abusive husband ended in August, along with his financial support. She sold her jewelry, fine china and everything else she could part with to pay bills. She was able to hold it together for a few months, but she soon realized she had exhausted her entire resources when a decision had to be made as to which of two bills she could pay. One of them was the power bill.

Her son was coming home from college for the Christmas holidays, and she knew she could not let him come home to a cold, dark house. She was so afraid for him to see how difficult it had become for her financially because he would insist on dropping out of college, where he will soon be graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice, to stay home and help her. That is the kind of loving, caring son he is. All she needed was \$8.00 to pay the bill, but it was \$8.00 she simply did not have. The power company referred her to CAM.

Although CAM did not have any electricity funds at the time, Mrs. Barrino was able to match Ms. Hyatt up with a family who wanted to sponsor someone in need at Christmas. They donated a \$300 Walmart gift card and a \$100 gas card to our agency for this purpose.

Ms. Hyatt was so touched by the assistance. She has always been on the "giving" rather than "receiving" end and was unaware of how humbling it can be to ask for assistance. She raised her son from the time he was a small child to help others. They supported the Christmas Bureau and Children's Miracle Network each year. She helped collect 120 children's shoe boxes a few weeks ago for Samaritan's Purse through Freedom Biker's Church, a congregation of awesome people that have given her great emotional support during this extremely difficult time in her life.

She has supported Cindy's Hope Chest (a charity dedicated to helping cancer victims with transportation to appointments, gift baskets, etc.). If you go to Toyota.com and click on the link for 100 Days of Toyota, you will see a short video clip of Ms. Hyatt when her cancer treatments were intense. Her effort, along with others, helped them win a \$50,000 vehicle for the charity. She and a special friend are also hoping to start Pink's Catering to help cancer victims.

Right before Christmas, she and a friend delivered over 200 Food Lion "Hunger Has a Cure" boxes to various charities (see Page 2 for the rest of the story and a photo).

Union County Crisis Assistance Ministry is a United Way agency and is funded through voluntary contributions, which can be made through our website at www.unioncrisis.org, by mail or in person at: 1333 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Monroe NC 28110.





UCCAM STAFF

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Your donations
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community!
Thanks for help-
ing us lend a
hand to those in
need!

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*Stay tuned for details of our upcoming
10K/5K /Fun Run event to be held on
Saturday, April 28, 2012 at Wingate University.*

Crisis Assistance Ministry received approximately 76 of the "Hunger Has a Cure" boxes just a couple of days after we helped her.

Within a couple of days of delivering the boxes to us, she had the great blessing of meeting a food vendor who was in the process of removing packages of liver mush and sausage from the grocery store shelf that were nearing expiration. She asked what he was planning to do with the products, and after he discovered why she was asking, he gave her what he removed plus an extra surplus. She stored them in a huge cooler and hand delivered them to our agency.

We are not currently equipped to handle refrigerated items in our food pantry, so Ms. Hyatt is trying to locate a freezer unit for our agency with the intention of visiting local grocery stores and collecting frozen items, which she will deliver to us herself.

She is also planning to help in any way she can with a major **10K-5K-Fun Run** fundraising effort for CAM coming up April 28, 2012 at Wingate University.

She is trained as a Level II Therapeutic Foster Care Provider and has helped many children over the years, even during her time of severe treatments. It made a positive impact on the child.

Ms. Hyatt's motto is "If you give, it comes back to you." As you can see, she is definitely a giver. Her generous spirit is helping to heal the harshness of cancer.

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Girl Scout Troop 725 delivered over 600 canned good items for our food pantry during the Christmas season.



The Renn's Nest dropped off very generous donations totaling \$700 as a part of their Christmas giving.