



Wal-Mart Manager Luke Williams (center) makes the check presentation to DSS' Krista Kindley and Brigitte Lindsay last week as store associates and Snyder of Hanover Foods employees stand nearby.

Department of Social Services thankful for New Year's Donation

Donation from Wal-Mart and Snyder will aid adoption programs

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Though the 2008 Christmas season was over, the spirit of the holiday persisted at the Wal-Mart on Parkway Village Circle in Winston-Salem last week, thanks to a collaboration between the retail giant and Snyder of Hanover Foods.

"Wal-Mart, along with Snyder of Hanover Foods, was looking for something to do within the community," explained Luke Williams, store manager at the Kester Mill Rd. location. "So we reached out to the Department of Social Services to see how we could help children in the community."

The four Forsyth County Wal-Mart stores worked together with the snack food company to raise the funds, which totaled \$8,000.

"It's very exciting to know that Snyder of Hanover and Wal-Mart could do this in a way that we could help everyone in our community," said Williams, who added that the group hopes to make the effort an annual event.

Adoption Services Recruiter Brigitte Lindsay says she was surprised and elated when she received the call from Williams and learned that DSS would be the recipient of the donation.

"Honestly, I thought I was going to need some advanced life support," she declared with a laugh. "I was in total shock. This was a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful gift and it came at a wonderful time for us."

The check was officially presented to members of the Department of Social Services' staff New Year's Eve morning.



Tonja Floyd's adopted nephew, little Angelish, and her daughter, Kyra Brown.

Social Work Supervisor Krista Kindley says the donation was truly needed.

"Eight thousand dollars provides opportunities to fill gaps ... that are created by limited and inflexible funding sources from the government," she explained. "We continually evaluate and identify gaps within the services we provide and are awaiting opportunities like this to have gifts of funding."

The money will support three programming areas under the Department of Social Services' umbrella, Kindley said. Foster Care and Adoptive service recruitment will be bolstered with the reserve. Events designed to help youth make successful transitions into adult-

hood will also receive additional funding, as will the RAPP (Relatives As Parents Program), which provides outings and support for local citizens who are rearing family members.

Thirty-six year-old Tonja Floyd will readily attest to the necessity the latter represents in her life. Relative parents face a unique set of challenges, says Floyd, who has had custody of her four year old nephew, Angelish, since he was five months old. Her sister, Angelish's mother, suffers from a drug addiction and is unable to care for her son, Floyd says. She participates in RAPP get-togethers regularly and says she receives some much needed encouragement through the program.

"It relieves some stress just to sit in a group and talk, just to find out what someone else is going through," she reported. "Without the Relatives As Parents Program, it would be hard. You can get really stressed out if you can't talk... I'm grateful because right now I am not working and it helps me a lot."

Paul Miller, district sales manager for Snyder of Hanover Foods, said philanthropy is important to Snyder, a Pennsylvania-based company famous for its pretzels and chips.

"We like to give back to the community," Miller said. "It's not all about the profits; you've got to give back."

Miller says he feels proud to work for a company that supports people like Floyd.

"It's just a good feeling that your company will back you and help you give to these organizations," he commented. "Somebody's got to help these people. They've got to have our support (in order) to continue what they do."

Wake Medical Students to hold free health fair Saturday

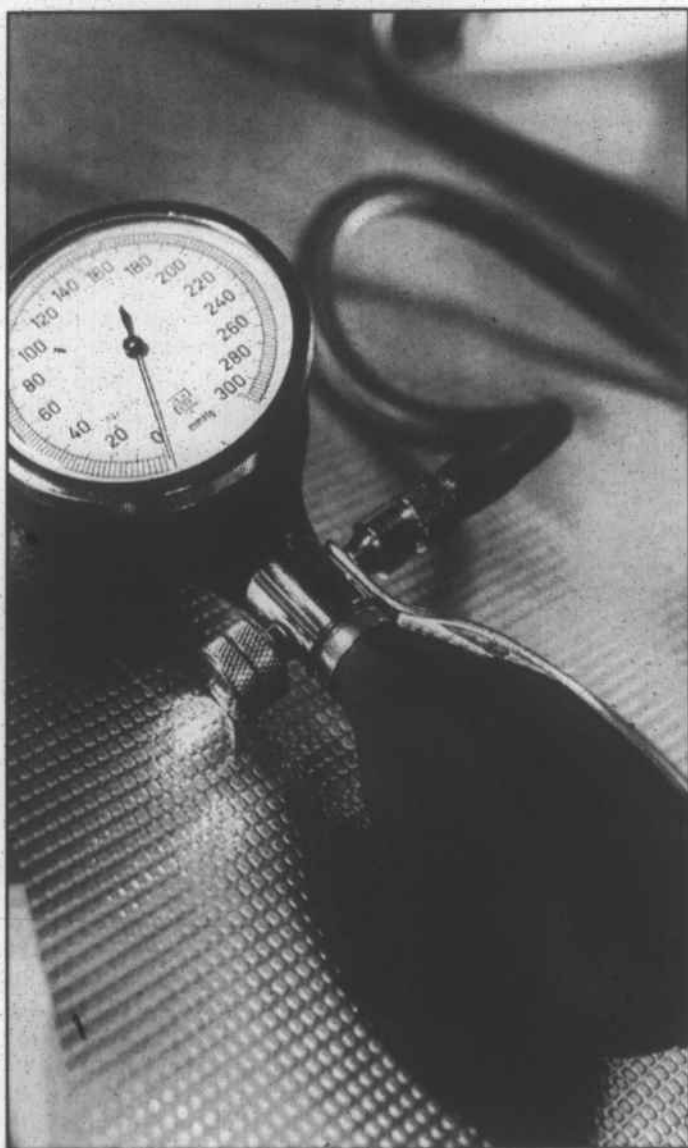
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University School of Medicine students will hold the 10th annual "Share the Health" fair on Saturday, Jan. 10 at the Marketplace Mall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The health fair is designed to encourage community members, especially those who are medically underserved, to become active participants in their own health care. In 2008, more than 200 student volunteers participated, including medical students, students in the Physician Assistant program and WFU undergraduates, serving more than 1,000 community members.

Many free health screenings will be available for participants, including screenings for glaucoma, diabetes, HIV and high blood pressure. Free tests to evaluate hearing, lung function, bone density, cholesterol, blood sugar and body-mass index will also be available.

Health care professionals - including physicians, North Carolina Baptist Hospital residents, physician



assistants and nurses - will offer free health information on such topics as sickle cell anemia, heart disease, diabetes, mental health, exercise and nutrition, and childhood obesity, among many others. Members of BrennerFIT, a Brenner Children's Hospital program that focuses on the treatment of childhood obesity (children ages two to 18), will also be on hand to provide counseling on healthy lifestyles.

There will be door prizes for participants, including tickets to the Winston-Salem Symphony, WFU men's basketball games and YMCA memberships.

For Hispanic participants, Spanish-speaking physicians, translators and information in Spanish will be available.

"Share the Health" is sponsored by the medical school and the Northwest Area Health Education Center (AHEC) of the medical school, which is also part of the North Carolina AHEC Program.

Marketplace Mall is on Peters Creek Parkway, one block north of Silas Creek Parkway.

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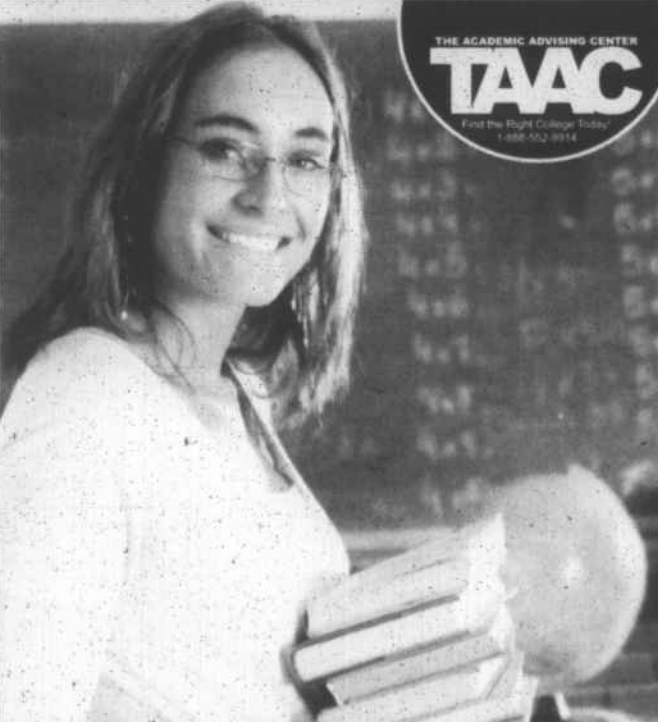
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