



Photo by Layla Farmer

David Lane lifts the "Over the Hill Gang" box that he placed at The Chronicle's office.

Local man takes proactive approach to fighting hunger

David Lane started a successful food collection program

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

David Lane doesn't believe there is such a thing as a "giving season." As far as Lane, 67, is concerned, any day of the year is a great day to give to those who are less fortunate.

To this end, the Winston-Salem resident started the Over the Hill Gang food collection program two years ago. The program draws its name from a group of retirees Lane helped to form at his church, Christ Moravian.

Lane, a retiree, has placed 107 nonperishable food collection boxes at businesses and organizations in Winston-Salem, Mocksville, Kernersville and King, and occasionally members of the "Gang" helps him with collection and distribution.

Lane himself spends 60 to 70 hours per week sorting, distributing, picking up and delivering donations. Since the program started, he has amassed more than 3,700 food donations for local agencies like Samaritan Inn, Sunnyside Ministry, Crisis Control Ministry and the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission.

"The outpouring of giving is beyond belief," he remarked. "It was amazing."

Crisis Control Executive Director Margaret Elliot says the contributions Lane and others in the community facilitate are a welcome addition to the organization's food pantry, as the need for the ministry's services continues to rise.

"We are certainly appreciative of all his efforts over the last year or two to help us," Elliot said of Lane. "He really has done a lot of work, not only for Crisis Control, but for other organizations as well ...

it just shows to us the giving spirit that people have."

Initially, the project was staged around holidays that aren't typically associated with giving, during times when donations are down in local food banks, says Lane, a native of central New York who has called Winston-Salem home for more than 30 years. He placed donation boxes and ran giving campaigns around Valentine's Day, the Fourth of July and Halloween.

"I had talked to Second Harvest (Food Bank of Northwest NC) and Crisis Control and I found out that after the (Christmas and Thanksgiving) holidays, canned food donations just dropped like a rock," Lane related. "So I thought ... I'll get a canned food drive started that goes on the rest of the year."

When the economy began to dip, Lane decided to keep the program running throughout the year and expanded it to other businesses in the area. Nearly all the branches in the Forsyth County Library system now have Over the Hill collection boxes.

Lane has also placed boxes in many daycare centers, in hopes of teaching youngsters the joy of giving.

"If I can affect kids when they're really young, I've got them for life," he noted.

Waightown Kids R Us has filled three boxes for the program so far. It is one of a handful of community service programs the daycare center participates in throughout the year, according to Center Director Ann Dunn.

"It's a part of our curriculum, part of our program - we give," she said. "We just feel that it's our responsibility to help and in such a small way,

we're doing that."

Dunn believes participating in programs such as Lane's helps teach the youngsters a valuable lesson.

"We talk about sharing," she said, "and I think (the children) understand what we mean when they are allowed to put something down in the box and give it to somebody else."

For more information about the Over the Hill Gang nonperishable food item collection program, or to request a box for your business or organization, contact Lane at (336) 724-7760.

News Clips

WFUBMC to build new Davie County facility

Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center will develop plans for a medical complex in eastern Davie County as a result of an agreement with Novant Health and the CON Section of the Department of Health and Human Services of North Carolina.

The medical complex will offer a broad range of services that will meet most of an individual's healthcare needs - diagnostic imaging, outpatient surgery and related services and physician practices. The complex will be built at Interstate 40 and Hwy 801.

The agreement also permits Wake Forest Baptist to build a 50-bed acute care addition to the medical complex no sooner than 2017.

In addition, the agreement also allows Wake Forest Baptist to apply for a CON to build a Critical Access Hospital in Mocksville.

Reagan graduate completes Air Force training

Air Force Airman Jason W. Clapp graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, where he completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and

skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.



Clapp

Clapp earned distinction as an honor graduate of the course.

He is the son of John Clapp of Winston-Salem and a 2008 graduate of Ronald Reagan High School in Pfafftown.

More than 80,000 citations issued statewide

Local law enforcement officers cited 31,760 motorists for speeding during the Operation Slow Down/No Need 2 Speed campaign, which ran Nov. 16-29. The campaign was part of the Governor's Highway Safety Program.

A total of 83,118 traffic and criminal citations were issued statewide.

"Speeding is the leading cause of crashes," said David Weinstein, director of GHSP. "These campaigns help make our highways safer and aim to remind motorists to obey the speed limit."

Officers also issued 4,904 safety belt and 873 child passenger safety violations and 1,430 drug charges. In addition, they apprehended 615 fugitives from justice and recovered 98 stolen vehicles.

Parmon named to autism committee

Rep. Earline Parmon, a Forsyth County Democrat, has been appointed to the

Joint Study Committee on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Public Safety.

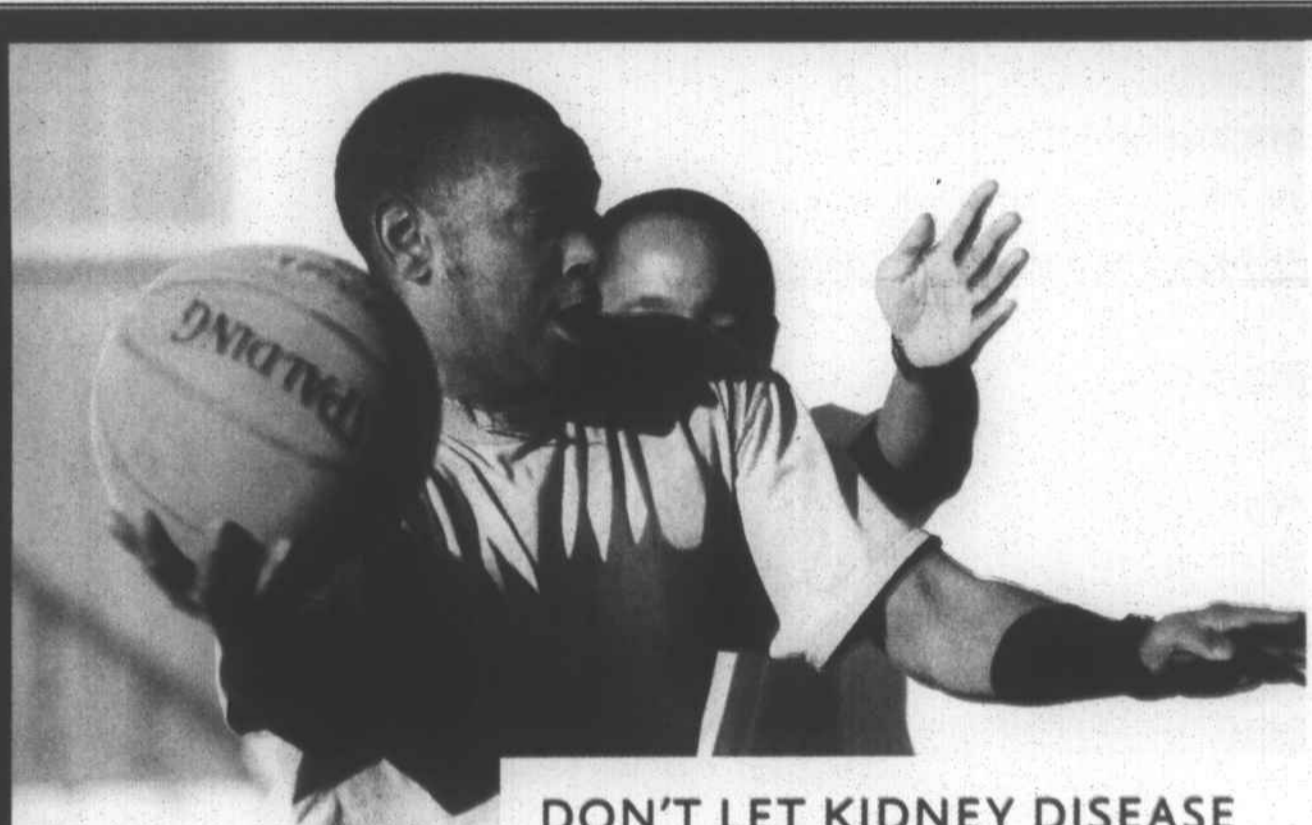
The Joint Study Committee on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Public Safety is responsible for studying ways to increase the availability of appropriate autism-specific education and training to public safety personnel, first responder units, judges, district attorneys, magistrates, and related organizations.

The Committee may also study any other issue it deems relevant to Autism Spectrum Disorder and public safety.

"It is always a pleasure for me to serve in key positions that will improve the quality of life for the citizens of our state and especially the people in my district," said Rep. Parmon, who is serving in her fourth term. "I look forward to working with my colleagues as we address these very important issues."

Peace Toys is Dec. 18

Carl H. Russell Sr. Community Recreation Center will present the 16th Annual Peace Toys for War Toys Exchange on Friday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. The event is for youth, ages 3-14 years of age, accompanied by a parent. High school students can qualify for a computer drawing donated by Venable Tax Services. Youth may exchange violent toys and video games for peace toys such as basketballs, footballs, puzzles and video computer games. Youth will also have an opportunity to win bicycles and other special prizes that promote fitness, education and peace. Doors will close at 7 p.m. The center is located at 3521 Carver School Road. For more information, contact Ben Piggott at 336-727-2580.



DON'T LET KIDNEY DISEASE TAKE YOU BY SURPRISE

Until he had a heart attack at age 28, Robert Jones thought he was perfectly healthy. Then, during his heart treatment, he learned he had kidney disease.

Like many with kidney damage, he had no symptoms.

Robert knew where to get expert kidney care: Wake Forest Baptist. And for nearly 20 years, Robert and his nephrologist have managed his condition with medication.

"I feel like a champ," he said. "I exercise and don't let anything stop me."

Untreated, kidney disease increases risk for heart attack, stroke, dialysis or kidney transplant. Knowing your risk factors is important. If you have diabetes, high blood pressure, are African-American, or have relatives with kidney disease, you are at higher risk for kidney disease.

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