

**North Carolina Association of County Commissioners  
2009 Local Government Federal Credit Union Employee Productivity Awards Application**

**County:** Cleveland      **Employee:** Deborah Hoyle      **Email:** [Deborah.Hoyle@clevelandcounty.com](mailto:Deborah.Hoyle@clevelandcounty.com)

**County Department:** Social Services      **Employee Title:** Processing Assistant III

**County Phone:** 704-487-0661 ext 200      **County Mailing Address:** PO Box 9006 , Shelby, NC 28151-9006

**Is this project being submitted on behalf of two or more employees?**      **NO**       **YES**

If yes, please provide below a listing of all project employees in Number 6. Employee & title as listed above should be for lead team member.

Fair Labors Standards Act Designation: In order for your project to be eligible, you MUST indicate one of the following. If you do not know, please contact your personnel director.

**EXEMPT:**       **NON-EXEMPT:**       **BOTH (if applicable to a team):**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Productivity Improvement Title:</b>	Networking in the Community
<b>2.</b>	<b>Implementation Date (must be between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008):</b>	January 2008
<b>3.</b>	<b>Please describe the productivity improvement. (Please limit response to these 2 pages.)</b>	
This project began because of the need for car seats and/or booster seats for our foster children. I began by researching the guidelines and criteria set by Cleveland County for an agency to receive donations from outside sources. I then began writing letters to various vendors requesting a donation of car and/or booster seats for our foster children. Cleveland County has a large number of children under the age of 8 in our custody, and NC state law requires that any child/ren under the age of 8 or weighing less than 80 pounds, must be restrained in a safety seat. Since all social workers must transport foster children to various places, doctor appointments, school, family visits, to/from foster homes, each worker was in need of a car seat. Often times new foster parents are also in need of a car/booster seat for a child and the agency would have to purchase one for them. The cost of a new car seat ranges from \$55-\$80 per seat; a booster seat from \$25-\$30; and infant carriers (which are used for premature babies and infants) cost \$50-\$75.		
My goal was to find a way to save the county money and time.		

**4. Please describe why this project was initiated or what problem it addressed:**

I found out that the Wal-Mart Distribution Center has a Damaged Box Program. I contacted them to discuss the criteria to be considered as a recipient of these goods. I obtained the proper paperwork and compared their guidelines to Cleveland County's, and realized that our agency would probably be eligible. I submitted the proper paperwork to Wal-Mart Distribution and was later notified that our agency was accepted as a recipient of these goods. Communication began between myself and the staff of Wal-Mart Distribution regarding the needs of our agency. Prior to being accepted into the Wal-Mart Distribution Center's Damaged Box Program, much time was spent writing letters to various vendors requesting donations, especially for child safety seats. Donations came from Shelby, Gastonia and even Hickory, which required traveling to pick up items and then the required paperwork would have to be completed before we could obtain the donation. This still did not meet the needs of the agency due to the high number of children in custody and the car seats wearing out due to frequent usage.

**5. Please quantify the improvement's results in terms of cost savings, cost avoidance and/or a higher level of services provided. (Please indicate what resources were used to achieve your results, and what was done with the time savings, if any accrued).**

Over the past year, Wal-Mart Distribution has donated approximately 40 car seats costing \$80 each for children 1-4 years of age; 15 booster seats at \$25 each; and 20 infant carriers at \$50 each. Wal-Mart Distribution has also donated 30 Jeep and 50 umbrella strollers. The total monetary value of all their donations of safety seats is approximately \$8,000. Our agency now has enough safety seats for each social worker to keep one in his/her car, one to keep in each county-owned vehicle, and enough to provide seats to new foster parents, if needed. Wal-Mart Distribution Center not only donated car seats, but we have a small storage building full of other donated items, such as clothing, personal hygiene items, infant formula, diapers, bottles, cups, lotions, baby wash and shampoos, etc. Wal-Mart Distribution has donated more than \$80,000.00 in goods to assist our clients.

**6. Please provide any other descriptive information you would like to be considered by the review committee.**

Wal-Mart Distribution Center and it's Damaged Box Program has been a blessing to our agency, not just because of the savings of valuable time and money, but also because we are able to go above and beyond the normal help given to those in need. Wal-Mart Distribution should be commended for their outstanding dedication to our Community. Because of them, instead of frequent trips to Wal-Mart, we are able to go out our back door and "shop" for items our children need.

<b>County Manager's Name:</b>	David Dear	<b>Supervisor's Name:</b>	Cherryl Barnette
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