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SEP 13 2017

BY:

September 13, 2017

Mr. Don Adams
County Manager, Jackson County
401 Grindstaff Cove Road
Sylva, NC 28779

Dear Mr. Adams,

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you and our commissioners the benefits of Circles of Hope, Jackson County this past Monday.

Our services are supported by over 10 churches, 30 volunteers and a part-time coordinator. Our goal is to reduce poverty in our county by 10% by collaborating and cooperating with other non-profit agencies, public service agencies and our business community.

The people we serve are primarily young mothers with 1- 3 children under the ages of 12. They are provided 12 weeks of experiential learning to assist them to get better organized, develop goals and manage their finances more effectively. Additionally, to provide long term support, they are provided mentors to assist them accomplish their goals and gain access to living wage jobs in the county.

The participants in each of our classes have increased their savings, increased their monthly income, increased the number of supportive people in their network and increased their sense of hope. Several people are now enrolled at Southwestern Community College and those working are earning higher or living wages. Every employed person in our program has reduced or eliminated the need for public assistance.

We seek to provide services to a greater number of individuals and families. To do so we need a full time Case Manager to coordinate resources. We request \$20,000 to match with other funds needed to have a Case Manager who supports our Circle Leaders as they overcome barriers to achieving living wage jobs that sustain their families and improve our economy.

Sincerely,

Ron Robinson
Coordinator, Circles of Hope Jackson County

We Provide the Tools to Change People's Lives

