

Last updated: 02/2019



<https://www.fsnhope.org/>

Resource Directory: Burke County

Note: This resource directory was created by FSN/Hope staff to help you identify resources in your county that can assist you with your child's needs. Family Support Network/HOPE does not make referrals and we do not endorse these agencies. Any contact you make with these agencies is at your own discretion. This directory may not have all the resources in your county however we try our best and will update this continuously. If you have any additions, questions, or concerns, please contact us at (828) 256-5202 or at vickiedieter@fsnhope.org. Thank you.

A Caring Alternative

301 East Meeting Street

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828) 437-3000

Website: <https://www.caringalternative.com/>

A Caring Alternative, LLC (ACA) is a well-established comprehensive care agency providing behavioral health and substance use disorder services to adults, adolescents, and children in Western North Carolina. Child, Adolescent and Family services are currently serving in Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and McDowell Counties. Programs available are Therapy Services (School-based, Individual, Family, Integrated Care, Group therapy, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Substance Use Disorder Services, Active Parenting of Teens- Families in Action, Psychiatric Care and Medication Management), Intensive In-Home Services, Therapeutic Foster Care, Day Treatment Services (Buncombe and McDowell Counties) and Services only for Burke and Catawba Counties are Hospital Discharge Planning and Assertive Engagement.

Abernethy Memorial UMC – Wright’s Food Pantry

960 Malcolm Blvd.

Connelly Springs, NC 28612

Phone: (828) 879-8894

Website: <http://www.abernethymemorialumc.org/page36.php>

Local food bank mission that provides food to Burke County Families in need. The service is held by the church on a Saturday of every month depending on the delivery of food. There are over 300 families who receive food boxes each month.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Burke County

(Part of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina)

200 N. King St. (3rd Floor)

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828) 253-1470

Website: <http://www.bbbswnc.org/tag/burke-county/>

This program selects and matches mentors with children facing adversity and provides ongoing activities, training and support services for both families and volunteers to foster a successful match relationship and a lasting connection. These relationships provide children with the support they need to achieve academic improvement, growth in self-confidence and development of life skills.

Blue Ridge Community Action

800 N Green St

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828) 438-6255

Website: <https://www.brcainc.org/>

Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc. (BRCA) is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1965 to address problems related to poverty in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Rutherford, Stanly and Union Counties. Services they provide are Adult Day Care, Day Care, Weatherization Assistance Program, Home Delivered Meals, Head Start, HARRP (services for those with inadequate or no heating/air conditioning), Congregate Nutrition, Early Head Start, Duke Energy Helping Home Fund, Affordable Rental Units, Foster Grand Parents, and SCSEP (A unique workforce Development program).

Burke County Children's Advocacy Center – Gingerbread House

408 South Green Street

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828) 430-9949

Website: <https://www.southmountain.org/childrens-advocacy-centers/>

The Children's Advocacy Center's main purpose is to coordinate the efforts of the various agencies that intercede in a child abuse case (Social services, Law Enforcement, DA's office, Mental Health, etc). Within the child-friendly atmosphere of each CAC, high trained Center Director conducts and records a professional forensic interview. In addition, a Nurse specifically trained in sex abuse examinations conducts a forensic medical exam on-site eliminating need for an emergency room visit.

Burke County Department of Social Services

200 Avery Avenue

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828) 764-9000

Website: <http://www.burkenc.org/departments/social-services>

Burke County DSS offers many types of federal and state services for the residents of Burke County. These services are Adult Medicaid, Adult Assistance & Protective Services, Child Day Care, Child Protective Services, Child Support Services, Family & Children's Medicaid, Food & Nutrition Services, Foster Care, Work First, Investigative Services, Low-Income Energy Assistance and Information & Referrals.

Burke County Exceptional Children Preschool Services

700 East Parker Road
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 439-4312
Website:

[https://www.burke.k12.nc.us/departments/birth to 5 years old/b c e c preschool services](https://www.burke.k12.nc.us/departments/birth%20to%205%20years%20old/b%20c%20e%20c%20preschool%20services)

This Burke County Public School Program is available for children ages 3-5. The program recognizes and stresses the importance of family involvement with open communication between parents and staff. Services are available free to preschool age children who eligible under the Procedures Governing Programs and Services for Children with Disabilities. The program is to provide appropriate public education to students with disabilities within the least restrictive environment; striving to maximize the potential of each learner by partnering with families, schools and the community.

Burke County Health Department

700 East Parker Road
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 764-9150

Website: <http://www.burkenc.org/departments/health-department>

Burke County Health Department offers many services for the residents of Burke County. Some of those services are: Burke Wellness Initiative, Community Health Assessments, Environmental Health, Adult Health, Care Coordination for Children (CC4C), Child Health, Family Planning (Birth Control), Health Check, Health Promotion, Immunizations, Maternity Clinic, Pregnancy Care Management, Preparedness, Primary Care, Safe Kids Burke County, STD Clinic, Vasectomy Counseling and Referral, and WIC (Woman, Infants & Children).

Burke County Literacy Council

700 East Parker Road
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 764-9150

Website: <http://www.burkenc.org/departments/health-department>

Burke County Literacy Council offers programs to recruit and encourage individuals to improve their literacy skills. Caring and personal attention, realistic and relevant goal setting, and sensitivity to family issues are components of the program. In the adult literacy programs, volunteers provide free one-on-one tutoring to students. Free educational materials are provided. Survival skills English, pre-literacy language development, and beginning reading are offered in one-on-one or small group instruction. Childcare and transportation are offered to participants in the Project FLOWER program. The Project FLOWER program is to help non-English speaking students learn to read, write and speak English.

Burke County Smart Start – NC PreK

700 East Parker Road
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 439-4312

Website: https://www.burke.k12.nc.us/departments/birth_to_5_years_old/n_c_pre_k

Burke County Smart Start provides opportunities for 4 year old preschoolers to attend the Burke County Public Schools. NC Pre-K allows students to attend free if they meet income guidelines. A DSS voucher can also be used to pay tuition. Sites where children can attend are: Drexel, Forest Hill, George Hildebrand, Glen Alpine, Hildebran, Hillcrest, Icard, Mountain View, Mull, Oak Hill, Ray Childers, Salem, Valdese and W.A. Young.

Burke County Transportation (Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority)

1515 4th St. S.W.
Conover, NC 28613
Phone: (828) 464-9444 (Demand Response, Flex Route)
(828) 465-7634 (Fixed Route Bus Information)
Website: <http://mygreenway.org/>

Greenway provides fixed route transportation service in the cities of Conover, Hickory and Newton. Flex route service is available for the Town of Taylorsville and in Burke County (Morganton, Drexel, Valdese, and Rutherford College). Demand Response Service in the counties of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba.

Burke Habitat for Humanity

111 Independence Blvd.
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 437-7844

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/burkehabitat/>

Habitat for Humanity of Burke County is a 501 non-profit organization founded in 1988. This organization partners with families to build modest, energy efficient homes. Habitat families are carefully qualified and must provide up to 500 hours of “sweat equity” in the construction of their home or the homes of other Habitat families. Habitat provides an interest free home mortgage that is typically less than the rent that a family would be paying for a less than standard home or apartment.

Burke United Christian Ministries

305 B West Union Street
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 433-8075

Website: <http://www.bucm.net/>

Burke United Christian Ministries (BUCM) serves Burke County through offering people nutritious meals at their soup kitchen, counseling neighbors in times of crisis, and providing families with food, clothing, financial assistance and providing educational opportunities to enhance people’s quality of life leading them to become contributing members of society. Soup Kitchen Hours: Mid-Day Meal- Sunday through Saturday from 11:00AM to 12:30PM. Evening Meal- Tuesday, Thursday and Sundays from 5:00PM to 6:00PM.

Care Coordination for Children (CC4C)

700 East Parker Road
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 764-9150

Website: [http://www.burkenc.org/departments/health-department/care-coordination-for-children-\(cc4c\)](http://www.burkenc.org/departments/health-department/care-coordination-for-children-(cc4c))

Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) is a program offered at no charge for children birth to 5 years of age who: Have long term medical conditions; and/or Are dealing with challenging levels of stress; and/or Are referred by the child’s doctor. When the care manager receives a referral, they will determine whether your child and family can benefit from CC4C services. CC4C care managers work with families through: Home visits, phone calls, doctor visits, and other types of contacts.

Catawba Valley Healthy Families

203 Avery Avenue
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 433-7176

Website: <https://www.childrenshopealliance.org/family-support/>

Catawba Valley Healthy Families is a program offered through Children's Hope Alliance. It is designed to educate and support families in Burke County so that they can provide their children with a safe and healthy future. The service begins prenatally or within the first 3 months after the baby's birth and over the long term with an average length of 3-5 years after the baby's birth. The primary focus of the program is to promote positive parenting, parenting strategies, positive bonding and attachment between parents and child, and developmental information. Parents may also be supported with other resources in the community.

Child Care Connections of Burke County

304 West Union Street
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 439-2328

Website: <https://childcareconnectionsburke.weebly.com/>

Child Care Connections of Burke County Inc. is a private non-profit resource and referral agency offering information to parents, child care providers, employers and the community. Child Care Connections has been serving Burke County since 1994. Child Care Connections strives to coordinate child care services with child care needs and promote public awareness about the importance of child care and the needs of young children. Child Care Connections provides for parents information about licensing standards, where to get assistance in paying for childcare, access to the region 9 referral line, information on community resources in the area and advocates for quality child care.

ComServ, Inc.

Corporate Office
105 Scroggs Court
Morganton, NC 28680
Phone: (828) 438-6026

Website: <https://www.comserve.org/>

ComServ, Inc. enhances the lives of persons with disabilities and their families by expanding opportunities of maximum growth and independence; promoting self-determination in inclusive and diverse environments; and providing services/supports for successfully achieving positive desired outcomes through individualized services, natural supports and participation in the community in which they live. ComServ, Inc. services Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, and McDowell County. Services they provide are Personal Assistance which is a State funded service for adults with disabilities 21 years of age and older. This service provides assistance with daily living, skill building, support with activities and therapy. Another service is Respite services funded through Medicaid. Supported Employment is another service provided and is founded on the belief that anyone can work if they are provided the right supports. This program provides support to help individuals with disabilities find jobs in the community. A Place to Grow (APTG) is a Developmental Day Center in Lincolnton, NC. The Center services children one to five and offers summer programs for children under 18. The Center follows best practice for preschool children and is integrated serving children with special needs typically developing children in all classroom settings. ComServ also provides residential options for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. It offers them a supportive and safe home to exercise their right to make choices, grown and contribute to their community. Some other options are ICF/IDD which offers intensive 24 hour staffing, Group Living homes with provide 24 hour support and supervision in a home environment, Supervised Living which is typically an apartment which includes room and periodic support care to those who do not need 24 hour support, Family Living/Alternative Family Living (AFL) is a service in which a child or adult resides with an individual or family other than their own.

Drexel First Baptist Church – BREAD Food Distribution Ministry

200 South Main Street
Drexel, NC 28619
Phone: (828) 437-3351

Website: <http://www.drexelfirstbaptist.org/>

The BREAD Food Distribution Ministry is held on the second Sunday of each month at 7 PM (6 PM in winter months) and provides groceries to 100-200 families each month. Seasonally, the church provides Thanksgiving meals to needy families and helps provide Christmas gifts through “Operation Christmas Child” and through local family adoption.

Early Head Start - (The Enola Group)

506 East Union

Morganton, NC 28680

Phone: (828) 604-4906

Website: <http://enolagroup.org/>

Early Head Start is a comprehensive, community-based program serving families and children from birth to age 3 and women who are pregnant. The program mission is to promote positive prenatal outcomes for women, to enhance the growth and development of young children, and to support and strengthen healthy family development. Services are federally provided at no cost to eligible families. The Enola Group Early Head Start provides early childhood education in quality licensed child development classrooms, education and support in families' homes, and family resource centers in Alexander, Burke and Caldwell Counties. The program also promotes the health and well-being of children and adults. The program help families find medical and dental providers of service to stay current on healthcare needs.

East Burke Christian Ministries

103 3rd Avenue SE

Hildebran, NC 28637

Phone: (828) 397-7074

Website: <http://ebcmnc.com/>

East Burke Christian Ministries is a small crises assistance agency located in Hildebran serving eastern Burke County. Their main assistance is with food. They also help financially with past due bills for power and rent, and also medicine, and kerosene.

**Family, Infant and Preschool Program (FIPP)
Center for the Advanced Study of Excellence (CASE)**

300 Enola Road
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 433-2661
Website: <https://fipp.org/>

The Family, Infant and Preschool Program serves in the capacity of a research and training institute as well as an early childhood intervention program for children (ages birth to five years), families, and women who are pregnant. This program is part of the J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center (JIRDC) located in Morganton, NC. FIPP provides direct support to children and their families in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, and McDowell counties. The mission of the Family, Infant and Preschool Program is to promote the growth and development of young children by supporting and strengthening families and building caring, responsive communities. They provide early intervention services, parent education, pregnancy supports, neonatal intensive care follow-up, and work collaboratively with other community agencies to ensure evidence-based intervention for all young children and families.

Good Samaritan Clinic

305 West Union Street
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 212-4185
Website: <https://burkegoodsamclinic.org/>

Good Samaritan Clinic is an interdenominational faith-based ministry providing medical care, dental care, mental health counseling, farmworker outreach, confidential HIV testing and counseling, ancillary services, and prescription medications to Burke County residents who are without government assistance, private insurance, or the financial resources to afford such care. The Good Samaritan Clinic was founded on the belief that healthcare is an essential right for all, regardless of the ability to pay.

**Governor Morehead Preschool
(Early Learning Sensory Support Program
for Children with Hearing and Visual Impairments)**

517 W. Fleming Dr.
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 433-2980

Website: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/vision-loss/governor-morehead-preschool>

The Governor Morehead Preschool provides community-based early intervention and preschool services to children diagnose with visual impairments. To be eligible, a child must have a: corrected visual acuity of 20/70 or worse in the better eye, remaining visual field of 20 degrees or less in the better eye, statement from a pediatric ophthalmologist that a child would benefit from services based on a specific diagnosis.

J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center

300 Enola Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 433-2731

Website: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dsohf/j-iverson-riddle-developmental-center>

J. Iverson Riddle Development Center (JIRDC) in Morganton, NC is the state operated developmental center for North Carolina's Western region. Riddle provides services and support to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), complex behavioral challenges and/or medical conditions whose clinical treatment needs exceed the level of care available in the community. Some services they provide are Residential, medical, habilitation (help in developing functional living skills) and training to promote independence, self determination and to support community living. They also provide facility based respite services to provide caregivers temporary relief. All requests for admission must be submitted by a letter of endorsement from the individual's responsible Local Management Entity/Managed Care organization (LME/MCO).

Just Girls Program

420 West Fleming Drive Suite C

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828) 438-6218

Website: <http://repayinc.org/just-girls-program>

The Just Girls program provides girls ages 11-17 in Burke County with a gender specific group and individual counseling program. Just Girls is designed to assist girls needing help with anger management, emotional regulation, depression, issues resulting from abuse, and girls beginning to exhibit behavior that could lead to involvement in the court system. Referrals to the program can come from schools, court system, mental health providers, churches, families and the community. The program provides group therapy, skills development, and opportunities for strengthening positive bonds with school, family and community. Just Girl Program is a service provided through Repay, Inc., a private non-profit criminal justice agency formed in 1982.

Mobile Pre-K Bus

700 East Parker Road

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828) 439-4312

Website: [http://burke.ss14.sharpschool.com/departments/birth to 5 years old/mobile pre k](http://burke.ss14.sharpschool.com/departments/birth%20to%205%20years%20old/mobile%20pre%20k)

The Mobile Pre-school program is FREE of charge. If students are under the age of 3, they are placed on a waiting list and is filled according to those closes to starting kindergarten. The classrooms are buses that have been gutted out and remodeled with wooden cabinets for storage, shelving, and counter tops. The typical classroom setup are carpet area for group time, sofa for reading/listening center, tables for center time, housekeeping and a small kid-friendly bathroom. Each bus parks at six locations for one hour and 45 minutes each week, a total of 18 site stops throughout the county. Each bus can accommodate 14 students at each site, serving a total of 252 students and their family countywide. Some highlights of this program are, free preschool, certified teacher and teacher assistant, developmentally appropriate, small student/teacher ratio, services provided are in conjunction with Smart Start, offers everything that would be available to your child in a traditional preschool classroom, designed for children ages 3 years old until they are ready to enter kindergarten and they specialize in kindergarten readiness skills.

Morganton Housing Authority

644 1st Street

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828) 437-9101

Website: <http://morgantonhousing.com/>

Provides public housing for families with low income. All housing is located within Morganton city limits.

Olive Hill Community Economic Development Corporation, Inc.

200 C College St.

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828) 475-4620

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/OliveHillCEDC>

Olive Hill Community Economic Development Corporation (OHCEDC) is a private non-profit corporation founded in 1998 to provide solutions to distressed residents located in Burke, Caldwell, Catawba and McDowell Counties. Their Mission is “To positively impact the social, physical, educational and economic environment of area families and individuals with asset building opportunities.” Efforts of concentration are in Affordable Housing (ownership and retention) programs, micro-enterprise development and business ownership, financial services and other asset building opportunities.

Pregnancy Care Center of Burke County

302 S. Main Street

Drexel, NC 28619

Phone: (828) 437-4357

Website: <https://www.pccob.com/>

The Pregnancy Care Center of Burke County is a non-profit organization established in 1986. Their mission is to support local women and men in their journeys through parenthood. The organization consist of technicians and volunteers that provides peer counseling, resources and educational materials to Burke County families. The staff also provides emotional, spiritual and material support as well as facilitates a supportive community. All services like ultrasounds, etc. that are offered at the Pregnancy Care Center is free of charge. Through the Hope Program, families can attend educational classes or in-person meetings and earn “Hope Bucks”. Hope bucks can be used in the boutique to exchange for items such as diapering essentials, clothing for children under 2, baby gear, toiletries and children toys.

Region 9 Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

734 Salisbury Rd.

Statesville, NC 28677

Phone: (704) 878-9980

Website: <http://region9ccrr.org/>

The NC Child Care Resource and Referral Council funds core service delivery in all fourteen CCR&R regions throughout North Carolina. Region 9 CCR&R coordinates child care information, consumer education, professional development, technical assistance, data collections and public awareness for Alexander, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Iredell, McDowell, Mitchell, Watauga, and Yancey Counties. Region 9 Resource and Referral is housed within the Iredell County Partnership for Young Children. The NC Resource and Referral Council also provides statewide project management to the following initiatives: School-Age Child Care Quality Improvement Project, Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors in Child Care Settings, and Infant Toddler Enhancement Project.

Salvation Army – Greater Hickory/High Country Regional Coordinate

412A W Flemming Drive

Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828) 439-8080

Website: <https://www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/hickory/>

Mission Statement: The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. The Hickory Corps offers people of all ages the opportunity to participate in weekly worship services, Christian children and youth programs and other community activities. The Crisis Help center is The Emergency Assistance program that helps with mortgages, rent, utilities, emergency food and donations of clothing and furniture through the offices of Hickory, Morganton, Granite Falls, Taylorsville, Marion, Boone and West Jefferson. Shelter of Hope is a safe and secure place for homeless men, women and children to stay while their basic human needs are met. Residents receive two meals a day (breakfast and supper) and are provided with clean linens and necessary personal hygiene products. Guidance and direction are given to each client toward transitional and permanent housing opportunities. During Christmas, The Salvation Army uses a kettle to collect funds. Proceeds from the Red Kettle Campaign put gifts under trees and hot food on the table of those less fortunate. The Salvation Army also visits shut-ins and distributes coast to children in need. The

Salvation Army of Hickory operates 9 Family Stores in its service area. Each Family Store offers great new and slightly used clothing, household items, and other things. Revenue generated from Family Stores help provide necessary resources to offer individuals in the community. Through the Salvation Army Boy's & Girl's Club in Burke and Catawba County, children and youth are provided educational after-school and summer daycare programs. Gang prevention education, sports and recreation and programming which shape them into caring, responsible, productive young people in the community.

South Mountain Children and Family Services

110 West Union Street
Morganton, NC 28680
Phone: (828) 584-1105

Website: <https://www.southmountain.org/>

Since 1903, child advocacy and foster community specialist Southmountain Children and Family Services has been providing exceptional care for children and families in North Carolina. Headquartered in Morganton, NC, Southmountain Children and Family Services operates the state's first and only foster community with 5 children's advocacy centers and Evidence-based Treatment Centers serving Avery, Burke, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey Counties. Their goal is to give children and families hope for their futures with the opportunity to experience successful accomplishments and fulfillment of their dreams.

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church – Food Pantry

728 West Union St.
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 437-3108

Website: https://www.saintcharlesborromeo.org/?page_id=184

St. Charles is a partner agency of Second Harvest Bank of Metrolina – SHFBM. Currently 99% of the essential grocery items distributed come from SHFBM. St. Charles distribute food to about 65 families a month. The Food Pantry is open from 10 AM – 12 Noon on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The Meeting Place Mission

200 North King Street

Morganton, NC 28680

Phone: (828) 432-5659

Website: <https://www.meetingplacemission.org/>

The Meeting Place Mission Organization's mission is to end homelessness by providing hope and opportunity to those in need in the community. The organization works to end homelessness through family and men's transitional housing and emergency shelter for women and children. The Meeting Place Mission provides assistance to all that come to their doors. The homeless are helped on a first come, first served basis. The 3 major programs offered through this organization is Men's Transitional House, F.A.C.E.S (Families adjusting Changing and Evolving Safely, a Family Transitional Housing program) and the Women & Children's Emergency Shelter.

The Outreach Center

510 East Fleming Drive

Morganton, NC 28680

Phone: (828) 439-8300

Website: <https://www.theoutreachcenter.org/>

The Outreach Center is a 501 non-profit organization based in Morganton, NC serving around 1,200 impoverished families weekly through food distribution, education, job training, and spiritual support. The Outreach Center also serves as a food bank for struggling non-profit organizations seeking to help families in the area. The Outreach Market program is a market style food distribution system that serves hundreds of people weekly with food, diapers and household items. They also distribute "outreach dollars" to each family receiving food according to their household size. Diaper for Babies provides free diapers to infants and toddlers in need of diapers. The Fresh Start Education Program includes adult basic education modules, High school equivalency test preparation and college preparation assistance. It also offers computer literacy, career employment skills education, resume writing and job search and job training. The workforce development program prepares clients for successful employment by providing both on-the-job training and classroom training. The Outreach Center Community Food Bank program is currently the only food bank located in the community serving homeless shelters and non-profit crisis assistance agencies directly. The Outreach Art and Culture program is designed to help individuals achieve growth in both learning ability and self-esteem. Activities in dance, drama, music, creative writing, and visual arts are offered to those most in need. The children that are served in this program come from families without the means to afford music, dance and other art programs.

Safe Kids Burke County

700 East Parker Road
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 764-9150

Website: <http://www.burkenc.org/departments/health-department/safe-kids-burke-county>

The Safe Kids Burke County Coalition is part of Safe Kids Worldwide and Safe Kids North Carolina. Safe Kids is dedicated to the prevention of accidental childhood injury, the number one killer of children ages 14 and under. The Burke County Health Department is the lead agency for Safe Kids Burke County. The coalition includes members from county and community agencies. The program educates children, parents and caregivers through a variety of activities and events. Child passenger safety inspections (car seat checks) by appointment. Child passenger safety presentations, Health and Safety fairs, Bike Rodeos, Medicine drops, and more. They also sell new car seats at reduced prices.

Universal MH/DD/SAS - Morganton Office

223 Avery Avenue
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: (828) 438-0006

Website: <https://www.umhs.net/>

Universal MH/DD/SAS is dedicated to helping individuals and families affected by mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse in achieving their full potential to live, work and grow in the community. Universal MH/DD/SAS is a comprehensive community human service organization and is endorsed by each Managed Care Organization (MCO).

Valdese Housing Authority

1402 Lydia Avenue NW
Valdese, NC 28690
Phone: (828) 874-0098

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Valdese-Housing-Authority/139295422784595>

Valdese Housing Authority is a public housing agency that participates in the Public Housing Program. Provides public housing for families with low income.

Waldensian Presbyterian Church – Community Assistance Ministry

109 Main St. E

Valdese, NC 28690

Phone: (828) 874-2531

Website: <https://www.waldensianpresbyterian.org/outreach/community-assistance>

Waldensian Presbyterian Church operates a food pantry and assists residents of Valdese and Drexel with a gift of groceries once a month. They are open every Thursday between 2 PM and 4 PM at the lower entrance of the church. They require valid I.D. as proof of residence. In the event of crisis, they can also offer financial assistance. This is a case by case service and requires an appointment and a pre-phone interview. You must call the church on Thursdays between 2 PM and 4 PM for this ministry service.

Western Piedmont Council of Governments

1880 2nd Avenue NW

Hickory, NC 28601

Phone: (828) 322-9191

Website: <http://www.wpcog.org/>

Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) is a voluntary association of local governments organized in 1968 as a non-profit group to provide long-range planning and technical assistance. This program serves Alexander County, Burke County, Caldwell County and Catawba County. The WPCOG staff is divided into eight work groups: Administrative & Financial Services, Area Agency on Aging (Caregiver Support, Elder Abuse, Fan/Heat Relief, Health Promotion Programs, Home and Community Care Block Grant Services, Counseling, Project C.A.R.E), Community & Economic Development, IT/GIS Services, Regional & Local Planning/Data Services, Section 8 Housing Program, Transportation, and Workforce Development.

Women's Resource Center

125 3rd St. NE

Hickory, NC 28603

Phone: (828) 322-6333

Website: <https://www.wrchickory.org/>

The Women's Resource Center empowers women through workforce development, advocacy enrichment programs and community partnerships. The WRC offers assistance to women in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties. Services provided through WRC include, Women2Work Workforce Development Programs and Support, Transitions4Women and Goal Planning Services, Challenges due to Separation, Domestic Violence, or Divorce, Support groups for Fibromyalgia, Emotional Support Group for Women, Adult Children of Alcoholics, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse & Overeaters. Personal Growth through Educational and Enrichment Programs, and Opportunities to meet and share with other Women.
