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Personal Care Kit Drive Collecting Hygiene Items for Adolescents

SHELBY, NC – Personal hygiene items are essential, but are not always readily accessible to youth in Cleveland County. As a result, the Cleveland County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition, in partnership with the Cleveland County Health Department, is sponsoring a Personal Care Kit Collection Drive to collect much needed personal care items for school-aged children.

Items needed include: deodorant, toothbrushes, tooth paste, dental floss, bar soap, wash cloths, feminine hygiene products, and shampoo.

Items can be dropped off at any of the following collection sites throughout Cleveland County: all Cleveland County YMCA branches, Cornerstone Dental Associates, All State Employee's Credit Unions in Cleveland County, Big Red's Café in Kings Mountain, Shelby Women's Care, and Cleveland County Health Department.

This is the second year in a row that the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition and Cleveland County Health Department have sponsored this drive. Last year, the drive collected enough donations to put together over 750 personal care kits that were provided to students attending Cleveland County Schools. The kits were distributed by school health nurses as needs were identified.

“The need for these items was first brought to our attention last school year by our School Health Supervisor,” said Anne Short, Director of Community Health Services and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Director for the Cleveland County Health Department. “Students and school support staff such as counselors and social workers contacted school nurses asking for feminine hygiene and personal care products for students. We decided as a coalition that we needed to do something to help these students access the items they needed,” said Short.

By the end of last school year, all 750 personal care kits has been distributed to students.

“We hope to be able to collect just as many or more items this year so we can put the kits together and deliver them to school through our school health nurses in time for the start of the 2023-24 school year,” Short added.

The personal care kit drive is running now through July 31st. For additional information or to make a monetary donation, please contact 980-484-5128 or Hallie.boggs@clevelandcountync.gov.

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