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they can. That's the way everything, but everybody can I was raised. We can't do do something."

The Woman's Enrichment Center in Blairsville is coordinating with Gooch Trucking to see that a huge demand for diapers in the Houston area is curbed, Kris Gooch said.

The Center turned to social media last week to request aid for the victims of Hurricane Harvey in south Texas.

And the philanthropic spirit of Union and Towns counties responded. Overwhelmingly.

On Wednesday, the Center posted on Facebook that they were accepting boxes of diapers to ship to Texas, and word immediately spread like wildfire.

"I just posted it yesterday (Wednesday, Aug. 30), and I believe it's the highest performing post that we've ever made on Facebook," Addie Jarrett said that next Thursday afternoon. "People have shared it like crazy and the response has been amazing."

The Houston metropolitan area has been ravaged by Hurricane Harvey's storm surge since the storm came ashore last month. Meanwhile, the Center has experienced a flood of donations since its post went viral late last week, and according to Jarrett, they're



Volunteers at Fellowship of the Hills Church helped to organize a relief drive for victims of Hurricane Harvey.

having a difficult time keeping up with the incoming supply of diapers.

"We can't keep enough boxes to put them in," she said. "I went to Walmart to get more boxes and as soon as I got back, more diapers were coming in so I had to go back and get more boxes."

The Center will continue accepting donations into this week. Gooch Trucking will transport the diapers put together to go to Texas. They expect to have the boxes on the truck headed west this week.

"It won't just be diapers on the truck," Jarrett said. "A lot of different organizations are doing different drives. We've also packed some other things like baby blankets, hygiene kits, formula, food, bottles, and that kind of stuff."

"My sister was in Houston and was evacuated," Jarrett added. "She told me that a lot of the shelters need diapers."

Resulting from the Facebook post, several local churches have been encouraging members to bring in diapers. Jarrett also told the story of a Center supporter who was in the process of buying diapers at a local business when something completely unexpected happened.

"Someone asked her what she was doing with all those cases of diapers and she told them, 'I'm buying them for the Woman's Enrichment

Center. They're being shipped to Texas.' Immediately, people just started handing her cash to go back and buy more diapers. By the time she left, she had a minivan packed full of diapers."

The Center's Facebook page will be kept up-to-date for anyone interested in bringing in diapers before the deadline. As soon as an end-date is set, the page will be updated. They are closed on Mondays, Fridays and weekends, however, so anyone wishing to donate diapers should plan on doing so no later than Thursday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The Center is always available to help the people of this community with diapers, baby food, clothes, baby furniture, and more. They are located on Jones Street behind the old Standard Telephone Company building on Hunt-Martin Street.

You can also take U.S. 129 South to Jackson Street (on the right between Circle K and the veterinarian's office). Turn left onto Jones Street at the stop sign; the Center will be on the right.

One of those local churches making a concerted effort to make a difference in Texas is Fellowship of The Hills. At the close of Sunday Service, several people stayed to offload a truck of donations from the many folks that filled it Saturday night at the A-Z

Auction; then they loaded pallets of donations from all the folks at Fellowship of The Hills.

The Fellowship Hall currently is filled to capacity with several full pallets of items such as cases of water, diapers, food, toiletries, shoes, batteries, etc. All items are new and ready to be loaded on a truck from Gooch Trucking that will deliver these donations to the victims in Texas.

The folks at Fellowship of The Hills say, "Praise the Lord!"

A list of most needed and critical items is below.

Food: bottled water, peanut butter, canned meats/protein, canned fruits/vegetables, canned stews, soups, and chilies, dry cereal, easy open snacks, and baby formula.

Personal Care Items needed are below.

New socks, undergarments (adult and children - include extra-large sizes), diapers, feminine products that include sanitary napkins, tampons, and panty liners.

A list of cleaning supplies needed is listed below.

Buckets, mops, bleach, paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, rubber gloves, and face dust/particle masks.

Please - no outdated canned goods.

Suches...from Page 1A



Union County Clerk Jennifer Queen

supposed to start on Aug. 14, however, not a single person called to schedule a ride.

Due to such a low initial interest in the program, the county decided to try again, and scheduled a public transportation meeting at the Suches Community Center on Monday, Aug. 28, to inform more people about the start of the study.

Six Suches residents showed up for the meeting, and while they all made a case for the necessity of public transportation, the interest seemed likely too low to justify holding a proper GDOT field study.

As a result, the county has decided to forgo the field study until such time that more Suches residents request transportation at regular intervals, meaning that the buses used in Blairsville will make the occasional trip out to Suches as they are scheduled.

If Suches residents use the transit system to a great enough extent to potentially warrant the need of a dedicated bus, then the county will begin the three-month GDOT Field Study to determine if it can meet the state's requirements to fund a bus to be used specifically to transport Suches residents.

"In this three-month time period, we will have to prove to them this is a real need for the community of Suches, and we will have to provide them with facts and statistics of use to back this up," said County Clerk Jennifer Queen.

Continued Queen: "If we can prove this is a need, then we are hopeful we will be able to apply for additional funding. If we are unable to get additional funding, a bus specific to the residents of Suches will not be a possibility."

One obvious downside to the service is that some residents will likely have to ride the bus longer than others, in order to accommodate for the schedules

of other passengers.

This could mean that a Suches resident with a morning doctor's appointment could get stuck on the bus until everyone else's appointments are taken care of, though the county has said the buses will gladly drop riders off at the library and a couple of other predetermined locations too while awaiting the time between stops.

The attendees of the

Aug. 28 public transportation meeting discussed the possibility of approaching churches and other charitable organizations about raising money to help residents in need be able to afford trips on the bus, though this idea is in its earliest stages.

Residents interested in taking advantage of the transit system can call (706) 439-6050 to schedule a ride.