

Open Enrollment for Affordable Care Act Ends Friday

Apply online for 'Obamacare' tax subsidies to offset premium cost

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey reminds residents that Open Enrollment for the 2018 Federal Health Insurance Exchange, also called the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare, is open now, and runs through this Friday, December 15 with coverage to start January 1, 2018.

Enrolling in an Affordable Care Act or ACA health insurance plan online at www.healthcare.gov is the only way to take advantage of tax subsidies to help pay for premiums. It is estimated nearly 85% of ACA insured members with the state's largest insurer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, will be eligible for Advanced Premium Tax Credit Subsidies.

Outside the Open Enrollment period, the only way to buy health insurance from Healthcare.gov under the ACA is to qualify for special enrollment due to having a child or adopting children, losing health coverage or moving.

To enroll in or change 2018 ACA health insurance policies, consumers may visit www.healthcare.gov.

Consumer specialists at the N.C. Department of Insurance are available to answer any questions during ACA Open Enrollment by calling 1-855-408-1212.

Operation Christmas Miracle Needs Your Help

Dear Local Business Owner/Manager:

Holiday Greetings from Harvest Ministries, right here in Anson County, North Carolina. In writing I trust you had a blessed Thanksgiving and are looking forward to Christmas. My name is Pastor Steve Adams, the Lead Pastor at Harvest Ministries.

I am writing to you today in regards to something very dear to my heart. As you may know, Harvest Ministries / City Reach exists to be an outreach and a hand extended to our community. Throughout the year, various programs, activities, and events are planned to assist those in need throughout our county and region. One of the highlights of our year is Christmas. Operation Christmas Miracle is held every year during the holiday season. This event is held every year, the third Sunday in December, here at Harvest Ministries Outreach Center. We will be sending buses and vehicles out this day, bringing in hundreds to make this Christmas unforgettable.

This year's event will be held on Sunday, December 17, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Various businesses, individuals, and agencies join together to provide new bicycles, toys, and other gifts to hundreds of children who may not have Christmas without the help of others. Through the years we have given away hundreds of bicycles, toys, and more to thousands of children. A delicious Christmas meal is also prepared with the help of many local restaurants, grocery stores, and others. The look on a child's face when you present them with a shiny new bicycle is worth more than any amount of money.

Friend, this is where I am asking for your help. Last year, through the generosity of corporations, companies, and businesses much like yours, we were able to feed over 650 children and families a Christmas Meal. In addition, hundreds of gifts and toys were distributed including bicycles, remote control cars, baby dolls, and bicycles. We encourage any individuals who would like to donate too.

I am writing requesting donations to assist in the purchasing of toys, bicycles, and more for this great event. Whatever amount you are able to contribute would be much appreciated and needed! Again - with your help we can provide gifts, smiles, and a hot Christmas meal to thousands of individuals this holiday season!

I thank you for your time and consideration. In order to have everything in order and ready to give to the children, we are asking that all donations be received no later than the Friday Before the event, December 15.

All gifts are tax deductible, as we are a nonprofit organization. If I can answer any questions or help you in any way please feel free to contact me at 704-695-2879 or via email at pastorsteve@harvestmin.com. Again, thank you for your help in making Christmas possible for many children and their families.

Respectfully, Pastor Steve Adams, Lead Pastor, Harvest Ministries Outreach Center

Become a Volunteer for Hospice

Hospice of Anson County in association with Hospice of Union County would love to have you join their volunteer team. Volunteers must be 16 years old or older to participate. There are opportunities for patient and family care volunteers, administrative volunteers, and community volunteers.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact 980-993-7300 or VolunteerHospice@CarolinasHealthCare.org.

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