

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Christmas comes early to many local organizations**

The Grace and Hope Foundation is a local Matthews organization which has been funding grant requests from charitable organizations for almost 10 years. This year at its annual meeting on December 5th, the board funded some local organizations that did not know it existed.

The foundation was started by Aana Lisa Johnson Whatley and her family who also comprise the board for the foundation. Grace and Hope receives grant requests every year from local 501(c)3 organizations and carefully evaluates and funds as many as possible within the limits of its available funds. Since its inception, Grace and Hope has distributed nearly \$700,000 to needy organizations.

At the 2005 meeting, the board funded a number of grant requests, plus decided to reserve some funds for local Matthews organizations which had not made requests. The board felt that given all the special needs over the last year created by natural disasters, many organizations could be having trouble meeting all their goals and would benefit from additional funding. Local Matthews organizations which received funds this year from Grace and Hope included: VFD, EMS, Levine Senior Center, D.A.R.E, Help Center, Health Clinic, Christ Our Shepherd, BS Troops #39, #46 & #413, M.A.R.A., Siskey YMCA, Historical Society, Habitat and CMPD Explorers Project.

The board would like to encourage local organizations to consider submitting grant requests in 2006 to address particular needs. Non-profit organizations with current 501(c)3 status should contact the offices of the Grace and Hope Foundation to obtain information about submitting grant requests.

Donations to support the charitable mission of the Grace and Hope Foundation can also be made by contacting the Grace and Hope offices. All contributions are tax deductible in the United States.

Grace and Hope can be reached by phone: 704-849-0256, web: <http://www.graceandhope.org> or by mail to: The Grace and Hope Foundation, P.O. Box 3127, Matthews, NC 28106.