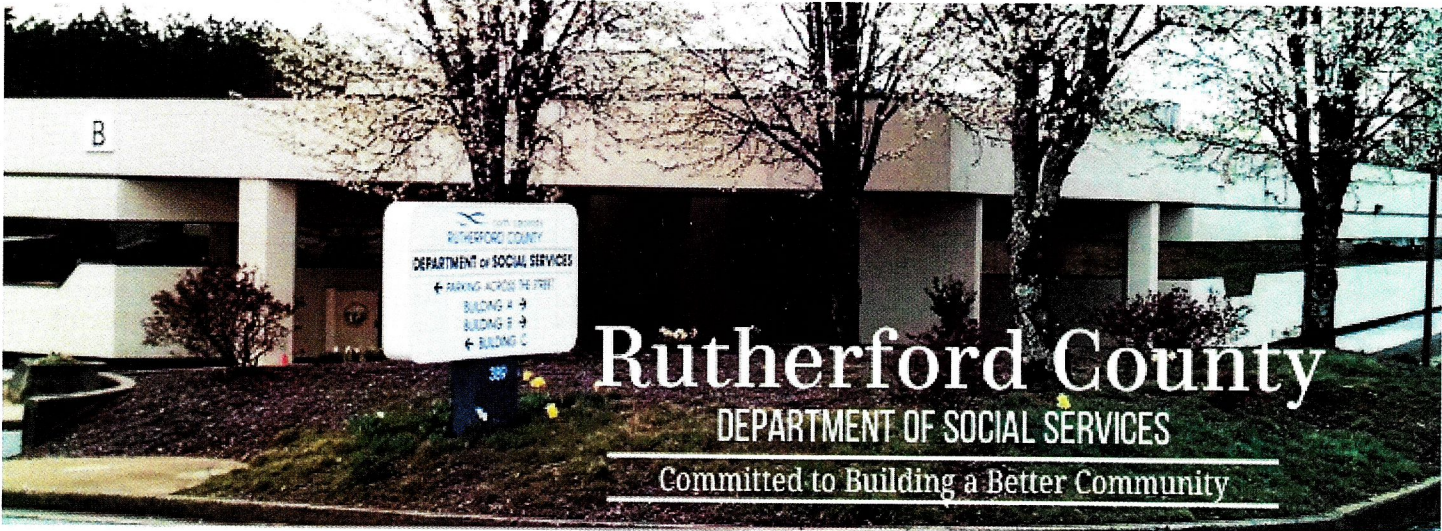


**Hazel Haynes**

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**From:** Delores Hunt  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 19, 2024 3:17 PM  
**To:** Department Heads  
**Subject:** Rutherford County Department of Social Services Annual Report



Dear Commissioners, Colleagues, Community Members, and Partners:

As I reflect on this past fiscal year, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for all that we have achieved together. This year has been one of significant progress, highlighting the strength, resilience, and unwavering dedication of our agency and the communities we serve. In the face of challenges, our team demonstrated exceptional leadership. Despite staff shortages, we proactively sought solutions through close collaboration with and community partners, while adopting innovative strategies to ensure

every individual in our community received the critical support they needed. From expanding healthcare access through Medicaid Expansion, enhancing food assistance to supporting families in crisis, and protecting our least vulnerable population, our programs had a significant impact on the lives of countless individuals throughout our county. Some notable accomplishments include awards and marks received on state reviews and audits, the elimination of children sleeping on cots in our county through strategic community partnerships, and the awarding of grants that will further enhance our work and empower families to achieve self-sufficiency.

While we celebrate these achievements, we remain mindful of the challenges we faced. Staff shortages, economic pressures, and the lingering effects of previous years tested us in ways we have not anticipated. Yet, through it all, our dedicated staff, community partners, and volunteers came to the occasion. It is their tireless work, passion, and unwavering commitment to our county that enabled us to overcome these obstacles and continue delivering the essential services upon which our community relies.

*Delores Hunt, MA*

*Director*

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