

Developmental Daycare Services

WNCSource has been contacted by the Henderson County Public Schools (HCPS) concerning WNCSource operating the Developmental Daycare program. School systems are required to provide eligible children with DD services. For at least 25 years Helping Hands has provided Developmental Daycare in Henderson County. Helping Hand is struggling financially and has informed HCPS that they will need to close. Linda Carter, Children's Services Director and Ibby Whitten are looking at financial pro formas, space, staffing and other considerations. So far, it does look like the positives outweigh the risks.

On November 1st the Community Foundation of Henderson County did approve emergency funding to keep Helping Hands operational through January 31, 2024. This will give WNCSource more time to help the families affected make the transition. WNCSource intends to bring all of Helping Hands employees to WNCSource. They have expertise and qualifications we need. We currently have space at our Tebeau center to provide services to all of the children Helping Hands has participating.

We certainly need Board support, and we will be presenting as much information as possible for the executive committee, finance committee, children's services committee and the full Board.

Bargain Hendo Closure

WNCSource opened Bargain Hendo in late 2020. It had a very visible location with thousands of cars passing by everyday. We hired a good part time manager with years of retail experience. We tried several staffing arrangements and did manage to build a cadre of volunteers. Despite these efforts the store was not profitable.

Since moving into the building the owners had been working on repairing a retaining wall on the property. There were several setbacks including the untimely death of the first engineer hired to design the wall. On June 15, 2023 a torrential rain storm left a stream of mud from the wall flowing through the Bargain Hendo donation area and parking lot. We informed the owners that we were suspending operations and discontinue paying rent until the wall was completed.

We will reopen on a limited schedule to sell what we can of our inventory. We will pay two months of rent to allow us to sell items and clear out the building. The owners are aware of this. We are working with the real estate agent the owners are using to allow the building to be shown to potential new tenants. We will be out of the building by December 20, 2023.