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Project Safe Neighborhoods Family Day Event to Engage Community in Positive Youth Venues for Safer Community

*Community Program on August 23 to Focus on Key Areas Identified by Citizens as Deterrents to Youth
Violence and Gang Participation*

Salisbury, NC_August 13, 2008 – Speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council and Salisbury’s Project SAFE Neighborhoods (PSN) program, Mayor Susan Kluttz cordially invites citizens to attend the upcoming PSN Family Day event on Saturday, August 23. Activities will commence at 10 am at the J.F. Hurley YMCA, 828 Jake Alexander Blvd. and continue through 2 pm that afternoon. The event, sponsored by the Rowan County United Way, marks the third in a series of Project SAFE Neighborhoods Family Day events which serve as a positive intervention and prevention program for kids (grades K-5).

Deputy Chief Rory Collins, Project SAFE Program Director for the Salisbury Police Department offers, “These community events provide a positive venue for our citizens and create increased awareness for affirmative youth outlets. Children are currently being targeted for gang activity at a very young age and by involving children in positive and productive roles, we can potentially deter their involvement in future gang activity.” In response, Family Day will offer excitement and education for children through the X-R-Cade Workshop for Kids, a ventriloquist act, a moon bounce, interactive games, and arts & crafts projects. Additional children’s venues include *Kids’ Internet Safety* and *Police Officers are our Friends* educational programs by the Salisbury Police Department and the opportunity to meet and greet Chipper the Squirrel, the Salisbury Parks & Recreation mascot. A Salisbury Police car, Rowan County Sheriff’s display and a Highway Patrol helicopter will be on-site at the event.

Informational booths and displays will include: Project Safe Neighborhoods, Youth Services Bureau, Rowan Partners in Education, Communities in Schools, Salisbury Parks & Recreation, the YMCA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Adolescent Family Enrichment Council, Salisbury Rowan Community Service Council, the Youth in Action against Tobacco Council and the Rowan County Health Department. Available informational Workshops for parents will include: Project SAFE Neighborhood’s Gang Front, Toxic Culture and Drug Education. Attendees in each workshop will be eligible to participate in exciting door prize drawings.

Mayor Kluttz offers, “I sincerely encourage everyone to partake in this very special family event which features a live DJ, complimentary food and drinks and free back to school supplies for children. The Mayor notes that in addition to the exciting door prizes given

away during the workshop sessions, there will be additional prize drawings held at 2 pm. Winners must be present to claim their prize and must hold a ticket punched with proof of attendance at two of the three available workshops. Free giveaways will be available to the first 750 attendees and early attendance is encouraged. Kluttz adds, "This event offers incredible support for the eight focus areas which citizens identified, during the Salisbury-Rowan United Summit, as key in providing positive opportunities for our youth and creating a safer environment for all. Informational displays and booths will offer opportunities in those areas uplifting including: Recreational Opportunities, Mentoring & Tutoring, Parenting, Jobs and Educational Opportunities, Schools and School Based Programs, and support from the Faith Community.

The Rowan County United Way is committed to building a better community by striving to increase the quality of life and making the Salisbury-Rowan community a better place to live. Services provided to the residents of Salisbury-Rowan, include the funding of 16 local agencies which ensure that essential health and human services are available. For more information regarding the Rowan County United Way and its supported agencies, please call 704-633-1802.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federally funded program, created to reduce violent gun crime by partnering volunteer citizens with law enforcement. Past violent offenders are notified that their crimes must stop and those willing to change their ways are assisted with available resources. Those offenders that do not heed the warnings by local law enforcement officials and accept community support will receive the maximum allowable sentence for future crimes. For more information regarding Project SAFE Salisbury, visit www.salisburync.gov/projectsafe/safesalisbury.htm .

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