



**From: HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS™**

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## **Clyde Erwin after-school program holds food drive for Warrior House™**

*Students in the Boys and Girls club program donate 225 food items*

JACKSONVILLE, NC, April 3, 2009—Students in the Boys & Girls Club of Eastern North Carolina, Inc. after-school program at Clyde Erwin Elementary collected six boxes of food for Hope for the Warriors™ Warrior Houses™.

Spurred on by a similar drive conducted by 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marines in honor of their recent losses, Tatiana Brooks, Unit Director of the Boys and Girls' program at Clyde Erwin and fiancée of a 3/8 Marine, decided to involve the students as part of their community outreach during National Boys & Girls Club Week, March 22-28. According to Brooks, the children really wanted to help though many of them are not from military families. "It was an awesome experience," said Brooks. The students also created flag artwork out of their handprints to hang in each Warrior House™.

The students presented their artwork and donations in a ceremony at the school on March 30, 2009. While holding their artwork, each the size of a bedsheet, the children sang the National Anthem. "I was completely honored to receive the artwork and food donations on behalf of Hope for the Warriors™," said Peggy Rochon, Director, SE Region, Hope for the Warriors™.

The Warrior Houses™ provide transitional, adaptive guest housing for injured service members or their families. In addition, these homes provide a place for injured service members or the families of those killed in action to stay while attending unit homecomings and special events.

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*Hope For The Warriors™ is a national, non-profit group actively seeking to ensure that the sacrifices of wounded and fallen warriors and their families are never forgotten nor their needs unmet, particularly with regard to the short and long-term care of the severely injured. For more information, visit their website at [www.hopeforthewarriors.org](http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org).*