



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **TRAINING OFFERED TO EMPOWER ADULTS TO PREVENT, RECOGNIZE AND REACT RESPONSIBLY TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

HICKORY -- The Children's Advocacy and Protection Center of Catawba County will offer several opportunities to adults wishing to learn more about how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

This free training is called Stewards of Children: Darkness to Light. Participants will watch a documentary film and participate in a discussion led by a trained facilitator. When 5 percent of the local population takes the training, a tipping point is reached and community attitudes begin to change. In 2011, the CAPC launched a campaign to train 6,000 adults. So far, 3,100 have taken the training.

Any concerned adult is invited to take the training. Parents and those who work with children, professionally or as volunteers, are especially encouraged to attend.

The times and places where the training will be offered are as follows:

Wednesday, May 21, 6-8 p.m. at Great Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Conover

Saturday, May 31, 9-11:30 a.m. at the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center

Saturday, June 7, 9-11:30 a.m. at the CAPC.

Saturday, July 12, 9-11:30 a.m. at the CAPC.

The CAPC is located at 1007 First Ave. South, Conover, NC 28613. Those wishing to attend one of the trainings should pre-register by calling 828-465-9296 or emailing [klandry@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:klandry@catawbacountync.gov). Businesses, churches, schools or other organizations are also invited to host future trainings.

The recently updated Stewards of Children documentary film features a new selection of survivor stories, expert guidance, and practical advice as part of a five-step action plan to help adults protect the children in their lives. This evidence-informed training program also includes

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up-to-date statistics and current topics in child sexual abuse prevention, packaged into a concise, two-hour format. The Children's Advocacy & Protection Center is pleased to partner with Darkness to Light to offer Stewards of Children training in Catawba County, available through a facilitator-led session or through a newly improved online learning platform.

A Spanish language version of the training is also available, featuring Dr. Marisa Azaret, chief psychologist of the behavioral psychology program at Miami Children's Hospital, and medical contributor for CNN en Español. The new Stewards of Children program was recently selected by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as a model program.

The Catawba County Children's Advocacy and Prevention Center exists to build a community dedicated to the prevention of and the coordinated response to child abuse and neglect. The CAPC is a non-profit organization that provides services to children who have been sexually and/or severely physically abused which include: forensic interviews, medical exams, mental health therapy, and a support and education group for non-offending caregivers. The center sees about 300 children a year from Catawba County. In addition to the services provided to child victims, the CAPC serves as the center of a multidisciplinary team made up of law enforcement, prosecution, and Department of Social Services. The CAPC emphasizes prevention by offering Darkness to Light in addition to other prevention programs.

Darkness to Light (D2L) has championed the movement to end child sexual abuse since its founding in 2000. With affiliates in all 50 U.S. states and 16 additional countries, D2L provides individuals, organizations, and communities with the tools to protect children from sexual abuse. To date, the D2L network of 6,000 authorized facilitators has trained over 500,000 parents, youth serving professionals, and organization volunteers in D2L's award-winning Stewards of Children® child sexual abuse prevention program.

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