



CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Children's Advocacy Center of Catawba County is launching a "prevent-a-thon" with the goal of training 6,000 adults in how to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse.

The prevent-a-thon will focus on what every adult in the community should know to recognize potential problems, and what they should do in response to these warning signs. The training is called "Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children." It consists of a video and a workbook that the participants complete. Trained facilitators lead the discussions. A certificate is awarded to those completing the training.

Through the training, you will be able to recognize signs of possible sexual abuse, hear stories from adult survivors of abuse, and identify specific ways to protect your own children or children in your church or neighborhood.

The video also points out steps an organization can take to make it more difficult for an offender to prey on children. Many organizations already check the backgrounds of those who work or volunteer with children. Simple steps such as never allowing one child to be alone with one adult can be helpful. Other suggestions include having glass windows in doors to deny a predator the opportunity to be alone with a child. Additional tips are included for parents, coaches, teachers, clergy and others who work with or care about children.

The CAC is asking as many organizations as possible to sponsor a Stewards of Children training by providing a venue for the training. Schools, churches, civic clubs and youth organizations are some of the agencies that may be interested in hosting this training.

The training will be offered free of charge, thanks to a grant from the *Catawba County United Way*. For more information, or to schedule your group's training session, call the Children's Advocacy Center of Catawba County at 828-465-7665.