



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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VIGIL HONORS CHILDREN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE HANDS OF A PARENT OR CAREGIVER

HICKORY -- Nearly 100 persons gathered at The Sails on the Square in downtown Hickory on Tuesday, Oct. 16 to remember the 24 North Carolina children who lost their lives in 2011 at the hands of a parent or caregiver.

The vigil is held annually by the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center of Catawba County. Deborah Johnson, director of the CAPC, spoke at the ceremony, followed by the placing of flowers. Aleia Burwell of the Hickory Police Department read a poem she wrote titled "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" that imagines the thoughts and feelings of a child victim.

A bell was tolled by Brittany Inskeep from the Rape Crisis Center as the first name of each child was read aloud and a tee shirt representing each victim was hung on a clothesline. The shirts were painted by members of the Hickory High School Art Club.

Savannah Purdy sang the song "Hope," accompanied by Thomas Michaels on keyboard. Pastor Andrew Weisner of Lenoir-Rhyne University led the group in prayer. Dr. Stacy Briggs, a local pediatrician and member of the CAPC Board, presented closing remarks.



REMEMBERING CHILD VICTIMS

A bell is rung honoring the children who died in North Carolina in 2011 at the hands of a parent or caregiver. The annual vigil is held by the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center of Catawba County. To find out how you can help prevent child abuse, go to <http://www.catawbacountyncapc.org> or call 828-465-9296.

The CAPC advocates for the protection of the children of Catawba County by working to empower individuals through training and education, coordinate a comprehensive team response to abuse and neglect, and reduce victim trauma. For additional information about how you can learn to prevent and respond to suspected child abuse, go to the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center of Catawba County at <http://www.catawbacountycapc.org> or call 828-465-9296.

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