



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kate Landry  
Phone: 828-465-8162  
Email: [klandry@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:klandry@catawbacountync.gov)

### 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 three opportunities this fall 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. Adrienne Opdyke, who works at the CAPC as a victim's advocate, has trained 2034 adults in Catawba County in Darkness to Light and has been recognized on a national level.

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:

- Tuesday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon at Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry in downtown Hickory.
- Sunday, Sept. 28, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.
- A two part training with the first hour scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 8 from noon-1:00 and the second hour scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 15 from noon-1:00 at CVCC

Those wishing to attend one of the trainings should pre-register by calling 828-465-8162 or emailing [klandry@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:klandry@catawbacountync.gov). Businesses, churches, schools or other organizations are also invited to host future trainings.

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. Visit our website: [www.catawbacountyncapc.org](http://www.catawbacountyncapc.org)

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● 1007 1<sup>st</sup> Ave South ● Conover, NC 28613 ● Ph: 828-465-9296 ● Fax: 828-464-7457

[www.catawbacountyncac.org](http://www.catawbacountyncac.org)

