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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION EFFORTS AND HONORS COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Liza Shaw, marriage and family therapist, MA, LMFT, ACHT of Marriage and Family Therapy Services, was this year's winner of the Hancock-Settlemyre Award for her work to eradicate child maltreatment.

Shaw received the award April 10 at the Hancock-Settlemyre Children's Breakfast, sponsored by the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center. In addition to her practice, Shaw serves as an instructor for "Parenting with Love and Logic."

She said: "Research shows that when schools and parents implement Love and Logic's positive discipline techniques, children develop healthier self-concepts, become more responsible and empowered, and improve their academic performance and behavior. My goal is to make this curriculum available to each and every parent and school in Catawba County."

The Hancock-Settlemyre Award has been presented since 1980 to recognize an individual, community group or business that has worked to enhance the quality of family life, reduce family stress, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. The award is named in honor of Dr. Millie Hancock Schumpert, former Hickory physician, and Jean Settlemyre Tashman, former administrator of Frye Regional Medical Center. Hancock and Settlemyre, along with other volunteers, initiated the original "Task Force for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect" in 1976.

In addition to Shaw, other award nominees were the Catawba County District Attorney's Office; Family and Children Support Team of Catawba County Social Services; Amy Herman of Social Services; Linda Robinette of Social Services; and Barbara Williams and Cathi Dillon, longtime volunteers with the CAPC.

The breakfast also highlighted local and statewide efforts to prevent child abuse. Dr. Adam Zolotor, a faculty member at the University of North Carolina Medical School, spoke about



Liza Shaw (standing) holds the Hancock-Settlemyre Award she received for her work to prevent child maltreatment. Seated are Jean Settlemyre Tashman (left) and Millie Hancock Schumpert, after whom the award was named.



the cost of child abuse and the Period of PURPLE Crying, a prevention initiative to inform new parents and to prevent injury to infants from “Shaken Baby Syndrome.”

Zolotor said that child abuse can lead to a lifetime of problems that cost all of society. Adults who were abused as children are more likely to suffer from physical and mental illness, become addicted to alcohol or drugs, use tobacco, commit crimes and become pregnant at an early age. "I don't see child abuse as an event," he said. "I see it as a condition of childhood. It is chaos in the life of a child."

Shaken Baby Syndrome is one of the most devastating forms of child abuse. It results when an adult shakes an infant. It can be fatal or cause a lifetime of disability. He said the initial hospital stay at the UNC Children's Hospital in a case of Shaken Baby Syndrome results in a bill of almost \$1 million. In most cases, these children need continuing medical treatment, special education, and other services for the rest of their lives.

Zolotor has been involved in a statewide effort to prevent this type of traumatic brain injury through a program called "The Period of PURPLE Crying." Hospitals throughout the state provide information on periods of uncontrolled crying by infants formerly known as "colic." Many infants experience this developmental stage from two weeks to three months. This type of prolonged crying is the most common trigger for Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Throughout the United States, the number of Shaken Baby Syndrome cases has doubled during the current economic recession, Zolotor said. The numbers of cases in North Carolina have remained stable. The CAPC will continue its efforts to educate young parents about The Period of PURPLE Crying.

John Eller, director of Catawba County Social Services, and Jennifer McCracken, health services manager of Catawba County Public Health, spoke about a new initiative called The ABC's of Safe Sleeping. The Children's Advocacy and Protection Center will coordinate with local health care providers to educate new parents about the dangers of co-sleeping. The ABC's stand for the message "I sleep safest Alone, on my Back, in my Crib."

Deborah Johnson, director of the CAPC, provided an update on the center's training program for adults, "Stewards of Children: Darkness to Light." This training helps adults prevent and respond to child sexual abuse. In 2011, CAPC launched a campaign to train 6,000 community members. So far, more than 2,300 adults have received the free training.

The Children's Advocacy and Protection Center has a two-fold mission. It provides education and training to prevent child abuse and neglect. It also responds to cases of child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse. Donations and volunteers are needed to help the CAPC continue its mission. For more information, go to www.catawbacountycapc.org or call 828-465-9296.



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