



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Department of Social Services

Press Release/PSA April 9, 2007

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

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CPC Announces Hancock-Settlemyre Award Nominees

The Children's Protection Council is pleased to announce this year's nominees for the Hancock-Settlemyre Award. This prestigious award honors the individual, community, group, or business whose efforts have reduced family stress and improved the quality of family life, thereby reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect in Catawba County. This year's nominees are Pam Brooks, Randy Dillingham, Joseph Edwards, Mary McKay, Timothy and Linda Shuford, and Judy Tate.

Brooks has served a long and dedicated career in Child Protective Services with the Catawba County Department of Social Services, ensuring the safety of our children. She has been responsible for training several generations of child protection supervisors, and has represented the department within the community, serving on task forces and committees dedicated to the protection of children.

Dillingham, who serves as assistant coach at St. Stephens High in football, track, and basketball, is the driving force behind a free football camp for area children. All equipment and needs for the camp are raised through Dillingham. Included in the camp are motivational speakers to provide more than just football to the participants. He is known to be a positive role model in the lives of area youth.

Edwards is a Catawba County Social Worker based at the HEART Resource Center. He has embraced his role to reach out to at risk youth and to be a positive male role model in the lives of these children. His genuine and encouraging presence continues to make a difference in the lives of these youth, steering them away from dangerous decisions that can have a negative impact on their entire life.

McKay is an Attorney Advocate, representing children who have experienced abuse and neglect within the three counties of our judicial district. Her dedication to children keeps her busy with the Guardian Ad Litem program, a program to which she donates her time and gives freely of her legal knowledge to help the abused children she represents.

The Shufords have made a difference in the lives of area children for over 18 years, serving as foster parents. They treat each one as their own, and continue to support them even after they have left their home. They are selfless in their dedication to making a difference in the lives of these children.

Tate is a business leader in our community, who has given both her personal and professional resources to support Sipes Orchard Home and the Children's Advocacy Center. Her efforts have made a significant impact in the lives of children who are at risk of abuse or neglect, as well as those who have become victims of abuse.

This year's nominees will be honored at the Hancock-Settlemyre Banquet to be held at the Rock Barn Country Club on April 26th at 6:30pm. The program will highlight Darkness to Light, a prevention model teaching adults how to recognize and the signs of abuse and neglect. The cost of attendance will be \$25/person. The banquet is hosted by the Children's Protection Council, a group of volunteers committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Catawba County. Catawba County Social Services actively participates in this group. For reservations or more information, contact (828)465-9297.

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