



# CATAWBA COUNTY

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Department of Social Services

## PRESS RELEASE/PSA

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### Local Man Honored for Service to Children

On the evening of April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Children's Protection Council hosted their annual Hancock-Settlemyre Banquet to announce the winner of the 2007 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 recipient was Joseph Edwards.

Edwards is a 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.

The Hancock-Settlemyre Award was first awarded in 1980 to Dr. Millie Hancock Shumpert, former Hickory physician, and Jean Settlemyre Tashman, former administrator of Frye Regional Medical Center. Both women were recognized for their efforts to promote awareness and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

This year's banquet was held at the Rock Barn Country Club in honor of all of the nominees. The program for the evening featured a moving preview of the Darkness to Light *Stewards of Children* program. This program is a prevention model that focuses on adults, teaching them how to recognize and prevent situations that may result in abuse. The Children's Protection Council is a group of volunteers committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Catawba County. For more information, contact (828)465-9297.

