



# CATAWBA COUNTY

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**Department of Social Services**

## PRESS RELEASE

**Wednesday, August 30, 2006**

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### **The Youth Aging Out Committee presents “Young Adults at Risk and the Future of Catawba County”**

The Youth Aging Out Committee of Catawba County is sponsoring a one-day conference on Monday, October 30, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, located on Highway 127 North in Hickory. The conference is designed to stress the need for community collaboration among the business community and health and human service agencies in order to combat the many barriers that hinder our youth from being successful, productive members of society.

The conference will reveal the truth about what our youth are exposed to throughout our communities. A keynote address by Mr. Kenston Griffin, of Charlotte, will express the importance of community collaboration to ensure the success of our communities’ future. A panel of youth will provide audience members the opportunity to hear the successes and failures experienced in our communities. Best practice models from across the United States will be presented to our communities providing low cost, high impact programs for combating the barriers our youth face. Business community members will have the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion with health and human service agency personnel to share experiences with disadvantaged, at-risk, and homeless youth and discuss ways in which collaboration will ensure success of all youth.

The Youth Aging Out Committee is a group of dedicated health and human service professionals who have been meeting since May 2005 to discuss youth at-risk issues. An initial conference was held in February 2006 and hosted more than 60 dedicated individuals interested in helping address these issues. Committee members include: Catawba County Department of Social Services, Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board Youth Council, The Cognitive Connection, Pregnancy Care Center, Family NET, Catawba Valley Behavioral Health, Council on Adolescents, and additional community agencies.

**For a registration packet, please contact Teri Armstrong, Catawba Social Services Training Coordinator, at (828) 695-5734. October 1 is the deadline to register. A \$10 registration fee includes snacks and lunch.**