



## Children's Advocacy and Protection Center of Catawba County

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **Non-Profits Merge to Strengthen Efforts to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect**

The Children's Advocacy Center and the Children's Protection Council of Catawba County have merged. The new organization will be known as The Children's Advocacy and Protection Center.

This merger will strengthen both agencies' ability to prevent child abuse and neglect. The official announcement was made at the Children's Advocacy Center's Annual Meeting Sept. 9.

"This organizational change will strengthen the Children's Protection Council, which has operated as an all-volunteer team since 1975, by providing staff members who will coordinate and help carry out the work," said Deborah Johnson, executive director. "The merger will also expand the Children's Advocacy Center prevention efforts beyond child sexual abuse. In addition to strengthening our efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect in Catawba County, the merger will also allow us to maximize the precious resources of our communities' time, talent and treasures."

The Children's Advocacy and Protection Center will incorporate two very important undertakings. The first will be to raise awareness in the prevention of child abuse and neglect using evidence-based strategies. Second, when we as a community fail to protect children from sexual and/or serious physical abuse, the CAPC will provide a comprehensive multi-disciplinary approach to the investigation, treatment and prosecution of such abuse.

To learn more about the history of both organizations please visit:  
[www.catawbacountycac.org](http://www.catawbacountycac.org) and <http://www.cpcofcatawbacounty.org>



Deborah Johnson, executive director of the Children's Advocacy Center (left), and Andrea Benfield, a volunteer with the Children's Protection Council (right), unveil the new sign in front of the center. The two organizations have now merged to better serve children. The new organization will be called the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center.