



## **CATAWBA COUNTY Department of Social Services**

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### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES MANAGER RECEIVES AWARDS**

Cyndy Benson, who recently retired as Family and Children's Services program manager in the Department of Social Services, has received the Kimberly F. Crews Memorial Award from the N.C. Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. This award is presented annually to honor a person who works directly with children suspected of having been abused.

Benson also received the Hancock-Settlemyre Award in April 2010. This award, presented by the Children's Protection Council, 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.



**Cyndy Benson was recently honored with two awards for her work with children believed to have been abused.**

The Kimberly F. Crews Memorial Award was presented by Chris Jernigan, director of South Mountain Children's Home, at Benson's retirement party. Benson retired in October from the Catawba County Department of Social Services, where she served as Children's Services manager for the past 12 years. She also worked for the department as a social work supervisor in Child Protective Services Treatment for five years and a clinical social worker in Child Protective Services for six years.

In nominating her for the award, Beth Brandes, assistant director of Catawba County Social Services, wrote: "Cyndy is tireless, ethical, thorough and remarkably resilient. Her compassion for abused children and her belief in the strengths of others pushes her sometimes beyond what seems humanly possible." Her colleagues also praised her for mentoring new social workers.

John Eller, director of Catawba County Social Services, said: "Cyndy has made the state of North Carolina a better place for our children. She has helped craft child welfare policy while taking little credit.. I've been amazed by her humility."

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