

CATAWBA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMEMORATES 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HICKORY, NC – Catawba County Public Health commemorated 75 years of service by sealing a time capsule containing components documenting Public Health’s current role and the community’s hopes for a healthier future. The time capsule includes community feedback gathered during the “75 Years of Public Health” campaign.

“Through our ‘75 Years of Public Health’ campaign, we learned that the community views Public Health as a vital partner in keeping our county healthy and safe,” said

Doug Urland, director, Catawba County Public Health. “We also learned that in order to have a healthier county 25 years from now, the community hopes to see more access to preventive care and better health choices, such as healthier eating habits.”

Campaign feedback included comments like this from Michelle Rimer, MS, MPH, RD, LDN, who serves as the Wellness Coach for Broome Associated Insurance: “Catawba County Public Health helps our community by serving as the primary advocate of our community’s health through the implementation of the three core public health functions: assessment, policy development and assurance.” Dr. Kenneth Bates of Catawba Pediatrics Associates stated, “Catawba County Public Health is a true asset to our county. It shares a wonderful relationship with the physicians in the community thus providing the best of care for the residents. It is truly in the forefront with its school health nurses providing the best health care to the children of the area.”

In addition to sealing community feedback in the time capsule, Public Health staff documented major accomplishments including child passenger safety and the current safety seat checkpoints facilitated by the Early Childhood Support Team program; the launch of the Catawba County Public Health Farmers Market through the Women, Infants, and Children program, also known as WIC; and the Community Health Assessment, which is facilitated with Catawba County Health Partners and provides an overview of the county’s health priorities.



Catawba County and Public Health management stand by a time capsule sealed during Public Health’s 75th anniversary commemoration. (L-R): Catawba County Manager Tom Lundy, Catawba County Commissioner Dan Hunsucker, Public Health Director Doug Urland, Catawba County Assistant Manager Dewey Harris, Public Health Assistant Director Kelly Isenhour, and Catawba County Assistant Manager Mary Furtado.

“Leading the Way to a Healthier Community”

The commemoration was supported by community leadership including Commissioner Dan Hunsucker, and Catawba County Management: County Manager Tom Lundy, Assistant County Managers Mary Furtado and Dewey Harris, and County Attorney Debra Bechtel.

Lundy thanked staff saying, “You’re part of a very long tradition, and have a lot to be proud of today. You’ve prevented and combated problems, outbreaks and trends, and we’re a healthier community because of you. You have big challenges ahead of you as you work to keep this county healthy—obesity, appropriate medical homes, cancer, substance abuse, and federal government impacts. For 75 years, Public Health has shown that it’s up to the task, and we thank every one of you that make the commitment every day to show up and care for this county’s health.”

Since opening its doors in 1938, Public Health has helped prevent illness, promote healthy behaviors, and assure access to vital medical services in Catawba County. Examples include providing important back-to-school and preventive immunizations; responding to disease outbreaks; preventing dental decay among children; enforcing environmental health standards; providing access to family planning and prenatal services; assuring medical homes for children through innovative partnerships and case management; enabling patients to obtain care through home health services; and providing access to healthy nutrition through the WIC program.

Located off Fairgrove Church Road behind Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, N.C., Catawba County Public Health provides health and education services to eligible men, women, and children in the community. For more information, please call (828) 695-5800 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth/

“Leading the Way to a Healthier Community”

