



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 20, 2014

CONTACT: Kate Landry, CAPC Community Education and Outreach Coordinator, klandry@catawbacountync.gov or 828-465-8162

Please note: The deadline for purchasing pinwheels is March 31.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH TO BE OBSERVED AT ZAHRA BAKER PLAYGROUND ON APRIL 9

HICKORY -- The public is invited to attend a ceremony recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month at noon on Wednesday, April 9 at Zahra Baker All Children's Playground at Kiwanis Park in Hickory.

The ceremony will include the placing of blue and silver pinwheels, the national symbol of child abuse prevention. Members of the public, businesses, or other organizations may purchase the pinwheels for \$2 each. Half the cost will be donated to the CAPC for its mission of education, prevention, and response to child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse. Following the ceremony, individuals are encouraged to take their pinwheels back to their home or business for public display. Individuals or groups purchasing 150 or more pinwheels will be recognized during the ceremony.

Pinwheels may be purchased by contacting Kate Landry at 828-465-8162 or email at klandry@catawbacountync.gov. To be recognized in the ceremony, donations must be received by March 31. Last year 1500 pinwheels were planted. Our goal is to plant 2000 this year.



Volunteers place pinwheels at Zahra Baker All Children's Playground before last year's ceremony marking Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year, the ceremony will take place at noon on April 9.

This year's proclamation event includes the dedication of a sculpture commissioned by the Public Art Commission, Hickory. The sculpture is by artist Mike Roig. He has created a pinwheel sculpture named "Zahra Whirled," which will be in place at the park for the April 9 proclamation. Roig lives and works in Carrboro, where he maintains Heartworks Studio. To learn more about Mike Roig and his art, visit <http://www.mikeroig.com>



A new sculpture will be dedicated at the Zahra Baker All Children's Playground during the April 9 event recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mike Roig created the sculpture titled "Zahra Whirled."

The Children's Advocacy & Protection Center would like to remind the public of some key facts concerning child abuse:

- Child abuse prevention is a community effort, and finding solutions depends on the involvement of people throughout the community.
- Child abuse and neglect is an ongoing tragedy.
- The effects of child abuse are felt by whole communities and need to be addressed by the entire community.
- Effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created between the courts, social service agencies, schools, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community.
- All citizens should become more aware of child abuse and its prevention in the community and become involved in supporting parents so they can raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment.

###