

Government of Catawba County, North Carolina

"Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!"

PROCLAMATION

PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH 2013

WHEREAS, this Board hereby recognizes and acknowledges public health's 133 years of service to the residents of North Carolina and the immeasurable contribution of these services to the quality of life in our State; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's public health system is a critical component of the state's emergency response to natural and man-made disasters and widespread disease outbreaks in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, public health measures to control and eliminate infectious diseases, improve environmental sanitation, and promote healthy lifestyle practices have been the greatest cause of improved health status and increased life expectancy for North Carolina's residents, such that North Carolinians now have an average life expectancy at birth of almost 77 years; and

WHEREAS, public health plays a critical role in eliminating health inequities and preventing chronic diseases and injuries, resulting in improved productivity and decreased health care costs for all North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, a continued focus on prevention has resulted in a 29 percent decline in age-adjusted heart disease death rates since 2001, a more than 35 percent decline in age-adjusted stroke death rates since 2001, and an almost 27 percent decline in the teen pregnancy rate among minorities since 2001; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of prevention in Public Health, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners supports the goals of the Healthy North Carolina 2020 Objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy North Carolina 2020 health objectives represent a 10-year plan to improve the health of all North Carolinians by working to promote access to preventive and needed health services, foster positive and supportive living and working conditions in our communities, and support individuals in developing the capacities and skills to achieve healthy living; and

WHEREAS, communities, employers, hospitals and health care providers, individuals and families, insurers, legislators and policy makers, schools and child care facilities must work together to identify and develop innovative solutions to health problems facing the people of North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS does hereby proclaim April 2013, as "**PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH**" in Catawba County and urges our citizens to recognize that Public Health is working to ensure that all people living in Catawba County are protected from threats such as influenza, food borne disease, injury and chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

This the 1st day of April, 2013.



Katherine W. Barnes, Chair

Catawba County Board of County Commissioners