



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEARN HOW TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

HICKORY -- The Children's Advocacy and Protection Center of Catawba County will host a free program at 6-8 p.m. Jan. 12 on how to prevent child sexual abuse.

This training will be held at the SALT Block auditorium, located in the Catawba County Arts and Science Center at 243 Third Ave. NE, Hickory. Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children is a moving and important program that educates adults in how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to incidents of child sexual abuse. The program is designed for parents, as well as for individuals who serve children and youth.

In 2011, the Children's Advocacy & Protection Center launched a campaign to provide Darkness to Light training to 6,000 adults, or 5 percent of Catawba County's adult population. Research has shown that when 5 percent of a population learns a new skill, the community reaches a "tipping point," resulting in social change. To meet this goal, the CAPC needs to train 1,000 more adults.

"There are more than 400 seats in the SALT Block auditorium," said Adrienne Opdyke, director of the CAPC. "On behalf of the children in our community, please help us fill all those seats on Jan. 12 by attending the Darkness to Light training and encouraging your friends and relatives to attend as well."

This training is for adults only. Child care is not provided. Adults are asked to pre-register for this event so that enough informational materials will be available. This program is provided free of charge to the public thanks to a grant from the Catawba County United Way. To pre-register, contact Kate Landry at the Children's Advocacy and Protection Center at klandry@catawbacountync.gov.

The CAPC is a non-profit organization that works to prevent and respond to child sexual and physical abuse. It coordinates the efforts of Catawba County Social Services, law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, mental health providers, and medical professionals.



More information about the CAPC is available on its website at catawbacountycapc.org.
You may call the center at 828-465-9296.

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