



# CAC Buzzzzzz.....



## April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

Twirling pinwheels, blue ribbons, white balloons, and poetry about Fatherhood is what you witnessed if you were on the courthouse lawn on April 3rd, 2011 as the community came together for the kickoff event of Child Abuse Awareness Month. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon and the weather was perfect for the event to take place. Chief Rodney Jordan spoke of his vision of having the streets lined up to support such an event, while Lincoln County's Sheriff David Carpenter nodded with approval from the audience. Later, local youth group members from an area church read their

thoughts about the impacts of having a father in their lives. This event along with four others are all a part of an effort to spread the word about child abuse to Lincoln County during the month of April. Another event held on April 5th included "A Day of Learning" that involved two class sessions about how to recognize and report child abuse. Both classes were open to the community and taught by Sherry Reinhardt, LCCACA and CAC Executive Director. On April 12th, area seniors graciously baked cookies for the LCCACA and CAC to deliver to community members who have impacted the CAC with

their donation and/or dedication to the center. Events during the last few weeks of April included a luncheon to honor our local heroes who have worked to fight child abuse, collaboration with the Lincoln Parks and Rec. Center to host a community Easter Egg Hunt, and a booth at the Special Olympics. Child abuse is everyone's problem. It takes a community effort to prevent it from happening. So, each year for the month of April, allow yourself the opportunity to volunteer within the community to raise awareness, prevention and education about child abuse.

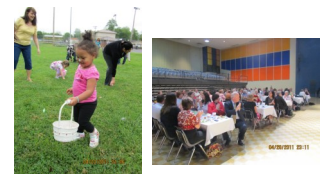
## The CAC Buzzzzzz.....

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### April Events for Child Abuse Awareness Month



## The 27th National Symposium on Child Abuse

During the month of March, eight Multidisciplinary Team professionals from Law Enforcement, District Attorney's Office, Department of Social Services and the CAC attended the 27th National Symposium on

Child Abuse hosted by the National Child Advocacy Center in Huntsville, AL. According to symposium coordinator, Marilyn Grundy, there were approximately 1200 people who attended the symposium.

The event hosted trainings that targeted all disciplines that are involved with child abuse.



## Inside this issue:

Policarp House	2
Upcoming Event	2
The Power of Play	3
Who's Who Corner	4



Beth Lari, ADA for Lincoln County enjoys a moment during the National Symposium on Child Abuse registration evening at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville.

# Volunteers Dedicate Their Time to the Policarp House

The Lincoln County Child Advocacy Center will soon have a new home to serve victims with the help of all the volunteers and donations from the community. Recently students from grades 6th through 12th from Lake Norman Christian Academy volunteered their time and hands to make the dreams for a new Child Advocacy Center in their community happen. The day's work consisted of planting, mulch spreading, painting, tile laying, and sod planting. It was a busy day for these young helpers and the sight of having children all around the house was priceless. The efforts

were coordinated by the new center's interior designer, Tracy Sawyer, owner of PTI Designs.



Lake Norman Christian Academy Students circle the new child advocacy center linking hands as they ended the day with a prayer to the home and the victims that will soon be served there.



## Upcoming Event.....

### **The Lincoln County Child Advocacy Center**

*Grand Opening  
Block Party!*

**Sunday, June 5, 2011**

**161 Policarp Street, Lincolnton, NC**

**More Details to Come....**



# Discover the Power of Play

Play is critical to children's healthy development. In addition to helping them grow physically, it helps them develop communication, social and problem solving skills, teaches them how to get along with others, and fosters their creativity. When children play with their parents they learn to communicate, take turns, share, and be sensitive to the feelings of others. Children who play with their parents have been shown to be more creative and have fewer behavioral problems.

Playing with your child doesn't require fancy toys or equipment. Improvise and make use of items around the house to have free or inexpensive fun. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Infants and toddlers love ordinary objects. Turn some pots and pans and a wooden spoon into a drum set!
- Pretend play: Children love dressing up in adult clothes. That pile of clothes you no longer wear can provide long afternoons of delight for a child.
- Save milk jugs, cereal boxes, and plastic jars, and create a grocery store. Let your child shop and then switch and let them be the shop keeper, allowing you to do the shopping.
- An empty box can become a fort, a playhouse, a train, or a spaceship. Let your child decide, and then help them make it.
- Take your child on a scavenger hunt around the neighborhood. See who can find the prettiest leaf, the most crooked branch, or the biggest pothole.
- Have a parade on your street. Invite other children and families to dress up.
- Listen to music together.
- Make up a song.
- Dance!
- Save old magazines, catalogs, even junk mail. Make a collage or cover a box with pictures. Cut out pictures of people and make up a story about them.
- Go on a camping trip in your backyard or living room! Set up a tent using an old sheet or blanket and some chairs.
- Read a book
- Play cards
- Have a gymnastics competition. Practice your best somersaults and cartwheels.
- Create an obstacle course where the contestants have to hop on one foot, walk 9 steps backwards, etc.
- Set up a "restaurant" with plates, mugs, etc. Have your children come up with a menu based on whatever you have in the cupboard, and help serve the meal.
- Build a model with toothpicks and marshmallows - let your child decide what to design.
- Turn out the lights and make shadow animals on the wall. Create a play or show starring your shadows.
- Make salt dough and create your characters to play with.

## Salt Dough Recipe

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup of salt
- 1 cup of flour
- 1/2 cup of water (may add more)

### Instructions:

- In a large bowl, combine the salt and the flour. Make a well in the salt/flour mixture and add the water, and knead until smooth. Shape into a ball. Wrap the dough in plastic or store in an airtight container when it isn't being used. To make colored or scented dough, add a few drops of food coloring or extract (vanilla, almond, etc.) to your dough and knead.

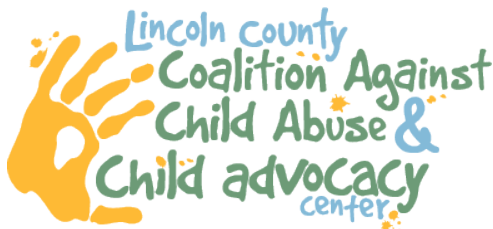


**Prevent Child Abuse**  
North Carolina

## Lincoln County Child Advocacy Center

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The Lincoln County Child Advocacy Center is a program under the Lincoln County Coalition Against Child Abuse organization. It was created by professionals from the child protection division, law enforcement departments, prosecutor's office, school personnel, medical and mental health community, and by local individuals that recognized a need for a better way to serve young victims of child abuse. The CAC is a child friendly, child focused environment, providing consistent and rapid follow-up to abuse allegations, medical and mental health areas for immediate treatment, and non-threatening forensic interviewing rooms that enables neutral, fact-finding interviews legally defensible in court.

Children referred to the CAC are greeted by sensitively trained staff and child abuse professionals. The professionals work together within a coordinated multidisciplinary team to lead the investigation. Specially trained and certified staff works with the child and the non-offending parents or caretakers and other family members for successful prosecution of the offender.

For more information about the CAC contact Sherry Reinhardt at 704-736-1155, or to report suspicions of child abuse contact your local law enforcement or department of social services.



## Who's Who Corner..... Featuring Board Members and MDT Members



**Michael Guy**, Lincoln County Coalition Against Child Abuse Treasurer is also a retired textile company owner. Mike was born and raised in Catawba County on a farm between Maiden and Highway 16. He attended Bandys High School and then went on to graduate from N.C. State University in Textile Engineering. His career in the textile industry gave Michael the opportunities to travel abroad to places such as Europe, Asia, and Mexico. During this time of year on Thursdays, you will find Michael swinging on the golf course. He is also a very active church member and a dedicated family man, who speaks very proudly of his beautiful wife of 49 years, Diane. He is father to Rhonda and David, and is a proud grandparent to four grandchildren. Michael Guy has been on the board of directors for the LCCACA for five years. He continues to work hard to oversee the project involving the new CAC home on Policarp Street. He states that "the completion of 161 Policarp is my priority in life right now, to complete the project so it is a facility we can all be proud of." Stop by 161 Policarp Street to say "THANKS" for his dedication to the Child Advocacy Center.



**Mark Sain**, a lifelong resident of Lincoln County works with the Lincolnton Police and serves on the Lincoln County Child Advocacy Center's Multidisciplinary Team. Mark's background includes working as a paramedic and also as the City's Electrical Superintendent, however, he has always had a passion to work in law enforcement that led him to where he is now. Mark is not the only one in his family involved in the law enforcement field. Cindy, his wife, works as the Records Supervisor for the Lincolnton Police Department. They have two daughters, Nicole and Allison. Nicole is a student at Gardner Webb and is studying Sports Management, and Allison resides in Texas. Mark is also a proud grandfather to his new granddaughter, Emma Madison. For leisure, he enjoys fishing and golfing. Stop by the Lincolnton Police Department and say "Hello" to Mark Sain.