



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Public Health

Catawba County Public Health Celebrates Accreditation Award

On March 18, 2009 Catawba County Public Health was recognized by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners for their recent state accreditation. The commissioners thanked Public Health for their dedication to ensure quality public health services to Catawba County residents.

Catawba County Public Health also held an appreciation celebration on February 25, 2009 for their staff as they were officially presented the accreditation plaque. In addition to the staff, representatives from the Catawba County Board of Commissioners, County Managers Office, and North Carolina Public Health were on hand for the festivities.

The accreditation program, which is a joint project of the North Carolina Division of Public Health, the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, and the North Carolina Institute for Public Health at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, ensures that all of the state's local health departments provide the same basic level and quality of services.

Local health departments must demonstrate 41 benchmarks thru the documentation of 148 activities. A site visit by members of the board of accreditation confirms that all benchmarks and activities are consistently being achieved.

"Accreditation is a rigorous process by which the state ensures that the health department is following proper guidelines in making decisions and offering services for the local community. Our staff works hard every day to ensure that the residents of Catawba County receive the best care possible and we focus on areas prevalent to their health," said Doug Urland, Catawba County Public Health Director. "It is wonderful to see that our efforts have paid off and that we have received recognition from the state."

North Carolina leads the nation in accrediting local health departments and is the only state where accreditation is required by legislation. Catawba County Public Health joins 44 accredited health departments in the state.

All residents are affected by Public Health. From testing drinking water to child immunizations to investigating and managing disease outbreaks, Public Health works diligently to protect and enhance the quality of life for the residents of Catawba County.

To learn more about Catawba County Public Health please visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.



Catawba County Health Director Doug Urland (second from right), and Cindi Bowman, Quality Compliance Coordinator at Public Health (far left), officially accepted Public Health's accreditation from several state agencies from Kitty Barnes, Chair of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners (second from left) with assistance from Commissioner Dan Hunsucker, who serves on the Board of Health (right).



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