



News Release

March 22, 2006
For Immediate Release

Contact: Margaret Barest
231-7273

Anderson County Agencies to Recognize Child and Adult Victims

A Three Ribbon Ceremony will be held on Friday, March 31 at noon on the steps of Anderson County Courthouse to commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Prevent Child Abuse Month and Victims' Rights Week and to honor those who have fallen victim to violent crime.

Foothills Alliance, Anderson County Department of Social Services, Anderson City Police Department and AOP Mental Health Child and Adolescent Center will host the event. Speakers include 10th Circuit Solicitor Chrissy Adams, Dr. Sallie Carter, Sandy Brownlee of Anderson Area Medical Center and Foothills Alliance Board Member and Volunteer Christy Williamson.

Violent crime in Anderson County remains a major issue, as more than 1200 Anderson County residents were victims in 2004. Last year, more than 700 cases of child abuse were reported to Anderson County Department of Social Services and one child was killed at the hands of an abuser. Also, more than 650 Anderson County children and adult survivors of sexual assault and their family members were served by Foothills Alliance in 2005.

"Child sexual abuse is a major problem in our county. We as community members need to recognize this by supporting these victims and the agencies who provide advocacy services," said Betsy Chapman, Three Ribbon Ceremony chairperson.

Guests will have an opportunity to learn more about the issue of violent crime in Anderson County, and will be given important information about helpful resources in the community.

Foothills Alliance's three programs, Foothills Child Advocacy Center, Foothills Prevent Child Abuse and Foothills Sexual Trauma Center, provide prevention and intervention services to sexually abused children and adults and serve as their advocates in the community. Established in 1989 as a rape crisis center, the Alliance is a nonprofit organization serving Anderson and Oconee Counties.

216 East Calhoun Street • Anderson, South Carolina 29621
(864) 231-7273 • (800) 585-8952 • Fax: (864) 231-8515
e-mail: margaretb@foothillsalliance.org