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**For Immediate Release**

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**Real information about Rape**

**Charlotte –** As a response to the current national discussion about the realities of rape in our society, United Family Services offers the following factual information about this crime.

The following statements are considered “conventional wisdom” by some constituencies. The reality about the violent crime of rape is quite different:

***“Rape does not result in pregnancy.”***

 The likelihood of getting pregnant from one event of sexual intercourse, according to RAINN, is 5% on average, which goes for rape as well. Therefore, the risk is seemingly low but no lower than it is for any other consensual instance. Source Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) <http://www.rainn.org/>

***“Rape is usually perpetrated by a stranger.”***

 Again, according to RAINN, approximately two-thirds of all rapes are committed by someone known to the victim. It is difficult to teach preventative techniques to both adults and children when those that they know and love are most likely to violate them.

***“People lie about rape a lot.”***

 A 2005 study indicates that only 3% of rape reports are false. A previous FBI study from 1996 indicated 8%, which is still a small fraction of all rapes reported. Additionally, studies have found that over 50% of rapes are never reported (RAINN). It is more likely that someone won’t report a rape than that they are lying about it.

 *“****Rape can be prevented by the victim.”***

 Despite the best efforts of society to help women be prepared for the worst, the idea that rape can be prevented by the victim takes the burden off of the perpetrator. The only person who can prevent rape is the perpetrator in deciding not to commit the rape.

“Rape is an epidemic in our society,” said United Family Services Strategy Officer Amanda Wilson. “One in four women, and one in six men, will be raped or sexually assaulted in their lifetime. We want all rape victims to know; it is never your fault. No one has the right to assault you. You are not to blame.“

Wilson added: “Help is available. United Family Services provides 24-hour hotline support and hospital accompaniment to rape victims. We also provide victim advocacy, support groups and therapeutic counseling to help survivors heal.”

**Important Hotline Numbers**

**United Family Services**

**Victim Assistance & Rape Crisis 704 332 9034**

Cabarrus County DSS 704 920-1400

UFS 24-hour Rape Crisis Hotline 704 721- 0110

Union County DSS 704 296- 4300

UFS 24-hour Rape Crisis Hotline 704 283- 7770

Mecklenburg County DSS 704 336 -3600

UFS 24-hour Rape Crisis Hotline 704 375- 9900

UFS DV Emergency Hotline 704 332 -2513

United Family Services assists more than 25,000 people annually throughout our geographic footprint that includes Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, South Iredell and Union Counties.  We also reach thousands more through our educational and prevention programs as well as institutional advocacy efforts.

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