

# SCAN helps break painful cycle of abuse

## Grandmother: 'They helped turn our lives around'

BY AMY FUHRMAN

If anyone knows how the cycle of abuse can continue in families, it is Sherry Lloyd.

One of her grandfathers was a child molester. Her grandmother told her she should never have been born. Her father was in prison, and her stepfathers were abusive.

Now a 61-year-old grandmother, Lloyd shared all of these painfully personal details on Thursday in front of more than 300 strangers to make a very powerful point: Child abuse doesn't end with the child.

"Children like me eventually grow up to be adults. We raise children of our own. A lot of times the cycle goes on," Lloyd told those gathered for SCAN of Iredell's annual Paint the Town Blue Luncheon at the Statesville Civic Center.

Over a year ago, Lloyd found herself a parent again at age 61, when she stepped in to raise her daughter's three young children. Lloyd said the children's parents are suffering from drug abuse. "I did not raise my daughter like that ... drugs took over her life," she said.

Lloyd found herself overwhelmed with the needs of the children, who were themselves victims of abuse. They were living in poor conditions in a trailer where methamphetamines were being manufactured, she said, and had serious medical issues. In addition, her oldest grandchild has been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at age 6.

"SCAN stepped into my life and opened a big window for me and these children," she said. "They helped turn our lives around."

SCAN was able to offer her support in everything



Sherry Lloyd shares her story during SCAN's Paint the Town Blue Luncheon on Thursday.

from parenting skills to logistics like getting car seats and legal advice. And the guidance provided by SCAN is helping her keep a promise she has made to herself and her grandchildren.

"It is my goal for the rest of my life to make sure these children get what I didn't when I was a child – love, safety, security and support," she said.

Breaking that cycle of abuse is so crucial, SCAN Clinical Director Laurie Trosuk said, and is what the organization strives to do for the more than 400 people it serves each year.

"Children learn what they live, and as adults, they live what they learn," she said.

Lloyd said that has certainly been true in her case. While the letters in SCAN actually stand for Support, Coaching, Accountability and Nurturing, she is reminded of another meaning when she thinks of the difference SCAN has made in her life: "Someone cares about neglected children," she said, pausing before she added, "and not just the little ones. They care about the 61-year-olds too."

To learn more about SCAN and the parenting education and other services it provides, visit [www.iredellscan.org](http://www.iredellscan.org).