



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

media release

For immediate release: March 28, 2012

Take A Stand Against Child Abuse and Neglect Wear Blue to Work on April 11

Franklin County Children Services receives more than 2,300 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect each month. As we observe Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, we are encouraging the community to raise awareness of this national tragedy by observing Wear Blue to Work day on April 11.

In addition, Children Services and community partners will be planting more than 5,000 blue Pinwheels for Prevention in the weeks to come. These blue childhood toys remind us that every child needs our protection. The pinwheels represent the 8,706 actual cases of child abuse and neglect investigated by Franklin County Children Services in 2011.

The Wear Blue to Work day campaign is the collective message from the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, a collaborative of the 88 county child welfare agencies in Ohio. To make the day more interactive, FCCS is asking individuals, area businesses, churches, groups and organizations to take digital photographs of their Wear Blue To Work attire and email them to us at FCCSOutreach@fccs.co.franklin.oh.us.

Your photos may then appear on the FCCS Facebook page or our Website at www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services. Children Services also intends to plant pinwheels in more than 25 locations in April and hold the annual Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast on April 11, where the work of youth, families, community advocates and one outstanding agency caseworker will be recognized.

“We want to send a statewide message that the color blue can bring any community together to stand up against child abuse,” said Bruce Cadwallader, FCCS community outreach director. “Anyone can participate with a simple act of planting a pinwheel, wearing blue to work or sharing a photograph as a show of support.”

Franklin County Children Services is the agency mandated by Ohio law to provide protection and care to children in need. Services are provided to strengthen family life to enable children to remain safe in their own homes. If you suspect a child is being abused, call the Children Services 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline at 614-229-7000. For more information about Franklin County Children Services, go to www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services.

For further
information,
contact:

**Joetta
McCruiter-
Polk
341-6017**

**e-mail:
vjmcrcrut@
fccs.co.
franklin.oh.us**