



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

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# media release

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March 2014

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## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

All children deserve to grow up in a nurturing home, with safe places to play and with adults who guide and love them - yet not all children do. Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) receives thousands of reports of child abuse each year and served more than 30,000 children and their families last year.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time when FCCS educates the community about child abuse by hosting a community breakfast and by planting blue Pinwheels for Prevention as an awareness campaign. These spinning childhood toys will draw attention to both the harsh realities of child abuse and the hope of changing the lives of children for the better. The agency's 20<sup>th</sup> annual Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at The Aladdin Shrine. This event, hosted by Children Services and its Citizens Advisory Committee, honors those who have promoted child abuse prevention and those who have overcome its effects. College scholarships will be awarded to youth; an outstanding child protection social worker will be honored; and youth and families will be honored for making positive life changes.

Once again FCCS is partnering with the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, to promote the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. This effort will enhance awareness about child abuse by displaying blue pinwheels throughout the community. The color blue has become an iconic symbol of child abuse prevention. FCCS also encourages all Ohioans to join the state child welfare agencies that will Wear Blue on April 9 as a wide-sweeping show of support for our cause.

Children Services will stress to the Central Ohio community that prevention depends on finding solutions to the problems that cause child abuse. With the help of local and statewide agencies and organizations, FCCS prevents child abuse through education, information, help for parents under stress, and through successful intervention programs.

For parenting tips go to [www.franklincountyohio.gov/children\\_services](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services). Call the Franklin County Children Services 24-hour child abuse hotline at 614-229-7000 to report child abuse.