



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

media release

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Franklin County Children Services' mission of protecting children by strengthening families speaks to the more than 32,000 children and their families served by the agency each year. FCCS believes the key to preventing child abuse and neglect is bringing awareness and encouraging community involvement. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time for all to help prevent child abuse.

FCCS will host the annual **Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast on Wednesday, April 13** – 8 a.m. at **The Boat House at Confluence Park**, 679 West Spring St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. (*Please note our new location this year*). This event is hosted by Children Services and its Citizens Advisory Committee to honor those who have promoted child abuse prevention and those who have overcome its effects. College scholarships will be awarded to youth; and families and youth will be honored for making life changes that have helped them build more positive futures. A caseworker and community advocates will also be honored.

The Wear Blue campaign is also on April 13 and FCCS encourages everyone to wear blue to show unity against child abuse. For Wear Blue, participants can take pictures of themselves, their group, classmates, or co-workers wearing blue and send them via email to FCCSOutreach@fccs.us. Photos may show up on the FCCS Facebook and Twitter pages.

During the month of April, the agency will partner with The Ohio Children's Trust Fund and Public Children Services Association of Ohio to bring attention to the issue of child abuse and neglect through **Pinwheels for Prevention and the #PinwheelSelfie campaign**. The Pinwheels campaign invites businesses, churches, schools and others to plant pinwheels and post pinwheel photos on social media to show their support of child abuse prevention. To take part in the #PinwheelSelfie campaign upload a pinwheel selfie photo on Facebook (Ohio Children's Trust Fund), Instagram (@OhioCTF) and Twitter (@OhioCTF) or email them to Ohio_Children's_Trust_Fund@jfs.ohio.gov.

For more information or parenting tips go to childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov. Please call the Franklin County Children Services 24-hour child abuse hotline at 614-229-7000 to report child abuse.