



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

media release

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Franklin County Children Services' (FCCS) 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 resources to families and raising awareness by encouraging community involvement.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time for all to help prevent child abuse.

The agency's annual **Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, April 12** at The Boat House at Confluence Park, 679 West Spring St. 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 recognized for making life changes that have helped them build more positive futures. A caseworker and several community advocates will also be honored.

The Wear Blue campaign is also on April 12 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@fcss.us. Photos may show up on the FCCS Facebook and Twitter pages.

This month, the agency is also partnering with The Ohio Children's Trust Fund and The Center for Family Safety and Healing to bring attention to the issue of child abuse and neglect with the **#InTheNext30minutes** campaign. Every 30 minutes a child is abused or neglected in Ohio. Take 30 minutes to help an overwhelmed parent, volunteer at a community center, mentor a child or become a foster caregiver. Take the pledge to prevent child abuse and neglect using #InTheNext30Minutes in social media and post your actions to prevent child abuse to the Facebook page of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, Instagram/Twitter @OhioCTF. Learn more at www.next30.org.

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.