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Cherish Indiana's Children During Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

INDIANAPOLIS – In 2006, over 84,000 Indiana children were reported as victims of child abuse and neglect; 53 died. Child abuse is preventable, which makes these statistics alarming and disturbing. During National Child Abuse Prevention month, **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana is raising the awareness of the issue, while providing educational opportunities to help change the way Hoosiers value and support the well-being of our children and families.

Child welfare concerns in Indiana have escalated to a state of crisis, and the growing number of heartbreaking child abuse and neglect stories making headlines illustrates an urgent need for parental support and intervention for at-risk families.

“Cherish the Children” is this year’s theme for Child Abuse Prevention Month and **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana wants to help Hoosiers Cherish Indiana’s Children. Be a friend to the kids and parents you know. Get involved. Advocate. Volunteer. Take time to be kind.

What can you do to prevent child abuse?

- **Be a nurturing parent.** Children need to know that they are special and loved. Educate yourself about a child’s development process so you can have reasonable expectations about what your child can and cannot do.
- **Help a friend, neighbor or relative.** Being a parent isn’t easy. Someone you know may be struggling with his or her parenting responsibilities. Offer a helping hand.
- **Help yourself.** When the big and little problems of everyday life pile up to the point you feel overwhelmed, take time out. Know where you can turn for help when you need it.
- **Get involved.** Advocate for services to help families. Contact your elected officials and ask them to support child- and family-friendly policies and funding for prevention programs. Ask your clergy, library and schools to develop services to meet the needs of children and families.
- **Make a report.** If you suspect child abuse, report it – it’s the right thing to do and it could save a life. Keeping children safe is the responsibility of every adult in our community. If you have reason to believe that a child has been or may be harmed, call 1.800.800.5556.

As a Division of The Villages, **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana serves as a catalyst for preventing child abuse in all its forms and thereby enhancing the quality of life for children and families in Indiana. By working with diverse national, state and local groups, and volunteers to facilitate child abuse prevention programs across the state, **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana advocates for policies, programs and practices that value children and families. **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana is the state’s chartered member of Prevent Child Abuse America. For more information, visit www.pcain.org or call 317.542.7002.

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