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Governor Daniels and Prevent Child Abuse Indiana to Kick-Off Child Abuse Prevention Month and a New Kids Can't Wait Campaign

INDIANAPOLIS -- Each year, more than 20,000 Hoosier children are abused and neglected – that equates to 56 children being harmed every day and one child each week losing his or her young life to child abuse. On April 3, Gov. Mitch Daniels will join **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana to kick-off Child Abuse Prevention Month and launch a new KIDS CAN'T WAIT campaign.

WHAT: Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Off and Launch of KIDS CAN'T WAIT campaign

WHEN: Thursday, April 3

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Indiana State House, 200 W. Washington St.

WHO: Governor Mitch Daniels
Vanessa – former foster child and victim of abuse
Michelle – mother whose child was a victim of Shaken Infant Syndrome
Sharon Pierce, President & CEO, **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana, a Division of The Villages
James Payne, Director, Indiana Department of Child Services

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 illustrate an urgent need for parental support and intervention for at-risk families. This year's theme for Child Abuse Prevention Month is "Cherish the Children" – a time when **Prevent Child Abuse** Indiana will be challenging every Hoosier to help protect and nurture the children in their homes, families, neighborhoods and faith communities.

Photo Op:

- 1001 blue pinwheels will be planted on the grounds of the State House to represent the over 87,000 live births of children in Indiana. The planting will take place on April 2.
- Children from Day Nursery, Indiana's oldest child care provider, will be on-site and celebrated. Day Nursery has been educating children of Central Indiana for over 100 years.

ABOUT PREVENT CHILD ABUSE INDIANA (PCAI): 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, PCAI 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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