



PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

Central Michigan District Health Department
"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"

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To: Local Newspaper

From: Sara Leslie, Health Education Intern

RE: Child Abuse Prevention Month

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The month of April is devoted to child abuse prevention. The best hope for reducing child abuse and neglect as well as improving the lives of children and families is by preventing child abuse and neglect. Strengthening families and preventing child abuse requires a shared commitment of individuals and organizations in every community.

The impact of child abuse and neglect is far greater than its direct, noticeable effects. These experiences can shape child development and may have consequences that last a lifetime. Research now shows that the physical, psychological, and behavioral consequences of child abuse and neglect impact not only the child and family, but also the whole community. Together as a community, we can make a difference.

Show your support and become involved during the month of April by wearing a blue ribbon. In the spring of 1989, a Virginia grandmother began the Blue Ribbon Campaign as a memorial for her grandson, who lost his life due to child abuse. She tied a blue ribbon on her van and encouraged her friends to do the same. Today, national organizations use the blue ribbon as a reminder of the positive steps that can be taken to prevent child abuse.

In 2007, Gladwin County alone had 371 families that were investigated for child abuse and neglect and 63 of these cases were confirmed. In Arenac County, there were 338 families investigated, 91 being confirmed cases. Isabella County had 970 families investigated, with 197 cases

confirmed. Clare County had 534 families investigated, with 120 confirmed cases. Roscommon County had 495 families investigated, with 57 confirmed cases. Osceola County had 1,030 families investigated, with 183 confirmed cases. (Kids Count in Michigan, 2007)

Communities that care about their children and families, can work together to find solutions to tough problems. Show that you care by getting involved in preventing child abuse before it occurs. Remember—the more you help, the less the child hurts. No child should have to live in fear of abuse. Children are 100 percent of Michigan’s future. Every child deserves a healthy, safe environment in which to grow up, and it should be everyone’s collective mission to provide that in Michigan. Sara Leslie, Central Michigan District Health Department Health Education Intern, asks you to “tie on a blue ribbon and show your support of Child Abuse Prevention Month.”

For more information on Child Abuse Prevention Month activities going on in your community, contact the local child abuse and neglect prevention council or visit the Children’s Trust Fund website: www.michigan.gov/ctf or call 1-800-CHILDREN or 517-373-4320.

This article was provided to you by the staff at Central Michigan District Health Department which serves the residents in Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon Counties.

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