

**April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

# **TEXAS GO BLUE DAY**



**Please join us on**

**Wednesday**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**BY WEARING BLUE TO HELP  
RAISE CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS**

**National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. We encourage all individuals and organizations to join the support of those affected by abuse and neglect by helping promote the prevention of abuse for the safety and emotional well-being of all children.**

**Thank You,**



## **History of Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Increasing public awareness of the need to ensure the safety and welfare of children led to the passage of the first Federal child protection legislation, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), in 1974.

In the early 1980s, Congress made a further commitment to identifying and implementing solutions to end child abuse when the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives designated that the week of June 6-12, 1982 should be the first National Child Abuse Prevention Week. Members of Congress requested the President issue a proclamation calling upon Government agencies and the public to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities promoting the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The following year, in 1983, April was proclaimed the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. As a result, child abuse and neglect awareness activities are promoted across the country during April of each year.

In 1989, the Blue Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Child Abuse began as a Virginia grandmother's tribute to her grandson who died as a result of abuse. She tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her car as a way to remember him and to alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse. The Blue Ribbon Campaign has since expanded across the country; many people wear blue ribbons each April in memory of those who have died as a result of child abuse and in support of efforts to prevent abuse. Based on Prevent Child Abuse America's (PCAA) Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign, some communities distribute pinwheels and coordinate outdoor pinwheel displays representing children affected by abuse or neglect. Regardless of the type of activity, the focus has shifted to a positive message of supporting families and strengthening communities to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Today, the Child Abuse Prevention Initiative continues to be an opportunity to create strong communities to support families and keep children safe.

## **How You Can Help**

### **Know the types of abuse**

- Physical and sexual abuse
- Direct and indirect exposure to drugs
- Failure to provide food, shelter and clothing
- Rejection and emotional maltreatment
- Medical and educational neglect
- Abandonment

### **Recognize the signs**

- Unexplained injuries
- Symptoms of anxiety and fear
- Lack of hygiene and personal care
- Changes in personality and behavior
- Changes in eating, sleeping and grades

### **Support efforts in your family & community**

- Volunteer and/or donate to your local schools, churches, community or faith-based organizations, children's hospitals, social service agencies where families and children are supported.
- Advocate for programs that contribute to creating healthy, safe and nurturing experiences for children to learn and grow.
- Support efforts in your community to provide parent education classes and mentoring to aid caregiver development.

For more information that focuses on Child Abuse Prevention, please visit the following websites:

- [www.childwelfare.gov/preventing](http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing)
- [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)
- [www.helpandhope.org](http://www.helpandhope.org)
- [www.bluesunday.org/about](http://www.bluesunday.org/about)
- [www.learntoparent.org](http://www.learntoparent.org)
- [www.tccwb.org](http://www.tccwb.org)