

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Upcoming Opportunities to Make a Difference

March 16, 2012

The Children's Trust Fund is working with our partners to plan several inter-related events, all designed to heighten the awareness of the important work that's being done throughout Michigan to support children and families and prevent child abuse and neglect. We encourage you all to participate in any way you can in these upcoming events. Keep us informed of your local events. We will do all we can to help you promote your efforts.

Here's a summary of the Prevention Awareness Day being done in concert with the Legislative Education Day, and the plans for the statewide April 2nd Pinwheels Garden Day.

Prevention Awareness Day



CTF will honor and celebrate CAP Month on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 11AM at the Lansing State Capitol steps with Prevention Awareness Day; a rally, procession and planting of a pinwheel garden (the national symbol of child abuse prevention). The event will feature notable speakers and entertainment. We have co-sponsorships from Dean Transportation, Grand Traverse Pie Company, the Lansing Exchange Club, the Lansing Area Black Social Workers, Lansing Community College (LCC) and others. The Averill Elementary School "Allstars", a 5 piece brass band from MSU's School of Music and LCC's choir will be performing at the event. Current confirmed speakers include Senators Randy Richardville and Gretchen Whitmer, Department of Human Services Director Maura Corrigan, Michigan's Children Executive Director Jack Kresnak and President of the Lansing Exchange Club Jim Paparella. After the rally portion of the event attendees will then be invited to walk to the traffic circle at Washington and Michigan Avenues where they will "plant" a pinwheel garden in support of child abuse

and neglect prevention. Media will be invited. What began as an event with 100 attendees 4 years ago grew to over 300 participants last year. This year we are working to achieve no less than 500 attendees. A Legislative Education Day (LED) Component has been added to Prevention Awareness Day which will afford CTF grantees and other child advocates an opportunity to educate legislators about prevention needs and current programming across the state. See below information about LED.

CTF invites individuals and/or organizations to participate in this momentous event. Please attend the rally and visibly represent your organization, and/or come to educate legislators.

Your participation in Prevention Awareness will benefit you.

- The event will enable you and/or your organization to join with others as a positive presence of support in the belief that child abuse and neglect can and must be prevented.
- Your support of the event reinforces your taking responsibility for championing healthy child development and nurturing environments, key components to the foundation of a thriving society.
- Estimates show that implementing effective policies and strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect can save taxpayers the costs of \$124 billion annually.

Legislative Education Day (LED)

Having an opportunity to inform legislators about local concerns and to communicate about the significant work being accomplished can positively impact the child abuse prevention work being accomplished in Michigan. This year, CTF is partnering with Michigan's Children to assist in coordinating the *Legislative Education Day (LED)* portion of *Prevention Awareness Day (April 19th)*. To register for *LED*, go to the following website, <http://www.michiganschildren.org/Attend-Events/>. To find legislators (so that you may make an appointment to see him or her), go to the following link, http://michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29701_29704---,00.html. There are no fees.



To donate specifically for this event a check may be written to "Michigan's Children" and mailed to Michigan's Children, 428 W. Lenawee, Lansing, MI 48933. Be sure to write "CTF PrAD" on the note line of the check. You may also donate by going directly to <http://www.michiganschildren.org/Attend-Events/> to donate with a bank card.

Feel free to contact Emily Schuster-Wachsberger (wachsbergere@michigan.gov, 517-335-0671) with any *Prevention Awareness Day* questions. For specific *LED* and donation inquiries, please contact Michigan's Children's Kali Montgomery at 517-485-3500 or email at info@michiganschildren.org.

Thank you for your support!

April 2nd Statewide Pinwheel Gardens

CTF is calling upon all Local Councils across the state to participate in the annual planting of a pinwheel *garden* on April 2nd. This is part of the Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA) “Pinwheels for Prevention[™]” campaign - an effort to change the way our state and nation think about prevention. It focuses on community activities and public policies that prioritize prevention right from the start to make sure child abuse and neglect never occur. It's simple really. The actions we take to promote healthy child development are the very actions that help to prevent child abuse and neglect, like parent-child interaction, reading and constructive play. Healthy child development starts a chain of events that follow a child into adulthood leading to a more educated and productive workforce, which is good for community and economic development. At a time when we all care about the economy, it just makes “cents” to spend more time learning how stable, nurturing relationships influence a child's developing brain and provide a foundation for all future development.



The campaign is based on two beliefs: that the public understands child abuse and neglect to be a serious problem but often doesn't understand how to prevent it before it occurs; and that issues the public cares about – including the economy, rising health care costs, and animal abuse are related to child abuse and neglect. Abuse and neglect of children often have lifelong consequences, including a greater chance of delinquency, criminal involvement, drug addiction, chronic health problems, mental health issues and an overall drop-off in productivity as functioning members of our communities.

Programs and strategies like home visiting, parent education, mutual self-help support, mental health services for new mothers, expanding the availability of affordable daycare programming and substance abuse treatment all play a role in the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and we all play a role in ensuring these programs exist in our communities.

The Michigan Children's Trust Fund and the PCA Pinwheels for Prevention campaign are calling for everyone to join this grassroots movement which focuses on healthy child development, creating stable, stimulating and loving environments for all children, and preventing child abuse and neglect before it occurs. To learn more about the Michigan Children's Trust Fund and the PCA Pinwheels for Prevention campaign call 1-800-CHILDREN

You can also follow the above events on the Children's Trust Fund's Social Media.

- Facebook – www.facebook.com/MichiganCTF
- Twitter – www.twitter.com/CTF_Michigan