



The Power of One – Statewide Initiative

The Michigan Children's Trust Fund's (CTF) statewide initiative for the prevention of child abuse and neglect is *The Power of One*. This initiative asserts that the power of one person, one community, one dollar, one action will help to protect children from abuse and neglect throughout Michigan. The *Power of One* encourages every citizen to take action toward providing the support and assistance that all families need. It is a compelling strategy for the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect. The *Power of One* is an ongoing campaign which is highlighted during April's Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month.

The goal of primary prevention is to stop child abuse and neglect before it occurs. Primary prevention strategies create supportive environments that empower parents and help them access the tools they need to raise their children in safe, loving, and nurturing homes. Primary prevention efforts are found in places where families gather: neighborhoods, workplaces, shopping centers, libraries, faith-based organizations, schools, and clubs. *The Power of One* accomplishes primary prevention by raising awareness of the solutions to the problem of child abuse and by mobilizing citizens to engage in those solutions.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is an opportunity for you to be a positive force on behalf of the children and families in your community. There are countless options to strengthening the mission of making child abuse prevention a reality. **No one person can do everything, but everyone can do something. And together, we can do anything!**

Here are some things you CAN do as a local council, direct service grantee, community group or faith-based organization:

Raise the issue. By educating yourself—and others—you can help your community prevent child abuse from happening in the first place.

- Explore the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) Website at <http://tinyurl.com/CTFCAPTToolkit> to access the Child Abuse Prevention Month toolkit and other information you can download, print, photo copy and post in your workplace and in your community.
- Find contact information for other CTF local councils by clicking the applicable county at the following link, <http://tinyurl.com/LocalCouncilbyCounty>. You can inquire, share information and/or collaborate with other councils about your prevention programs and activities.
- Wear a blue pinwheel and tell people it stands for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- Lead Child Abuse Prevention Month activities in your local community, e.g., Planting a Pinwheel Garden, Faith-based Campaign/Blue Sabbath, Fund Raisers, etc.
- Attend and invite others to the April 27, 2017 Prevention Awareness Day (PrAD) rally in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month at the Capitol steps at 11 AM in Downtown Lansing to show support and to celebrate our state's children and families.



- Participate in the Legislative Education Day (LED) component of the Prevention Awareness Day event. For more information about LED call CTF at 517-373-4320.
- Contact your elected officials and educate them regarding the child abuse and neglect prevention need in your local community, and ask them to support funding and legislative initiatives for parent support and child abuse prevention programs.

Here are things local councils, direct service grantees, community groups or faith-based organizations can encourage community members to do:

Reach out. Anything you do to support families can reduce the stress that often leads to child abuse and neglect.

- Be a friend to a parent you know. Ask how their children are doing. If a parent seems to be struggling, offer to baby-sit, run errands, or lend a friendly ear.
- Talk to your neighbors about looking out for one another's children. Encourage a supportive spirit among parents in your community. Join a local Circle of Parents (<http://www.circleofparents.org/>) support group or Great Start Parent Coalition. (<http://greatstartforkids.org/content/great-start-parent-coalition-overview>)
- Donate clothing, furniture, and toys to another family. This can relieve the financial stress that families may experience.
- If you or someone you know feels overwhelmed by the demands of parenting, call Parent Awareness Michigan (PAM) at 1-800-968-4968 for information about family support resources in your community or visit www.preventionnetwork.org to find parenting resources managed by PAM.
- Become a volunteer/member of a child abuse prevention/advocacy group, or organization in your community.
- Make a financial charitable contribution to a cause which will support families and children. Each \$1 donation can make a difference.
- Contact your county's CTF local council to inquire about prevention programs, educational opportunities and Child Abuse Prevention Month activities.
- Explore CTF local council websites by clicking the applicable county at the following link, <http://tinyurl.com/LocalCouncilbyCounty>.
- Incorporate *Power of One* approaches and principles as essential concepts in all prevention discussions.
- Be a *Power of One* person/organization/faith-based community and share with others how you are making a positive difference in the lives of children.

The Power of One **CAN** Make a Difference!



Children's Trust Fund
Protecting Michigan's Children