



## Kids First Trust Fund

### April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

**April is Prevent Child Abuse month.** There were several state and local events to mark the month.

**April 4th Delaware County candlelight vigil.** This event took place at city hall. Names of victims were read and community members honored.

**April 11th Crawford County Stewards of Chil-**

**dren Program.**

**April 14th Matt Breman memorial run... to end child abuse for kids.** A 5k run/walk at the Canal Downtown Indianapolis was hosted.

**April 21st Muncie Children's Museum Health Fair "The Whole Child"**

**Events you can still at-**

**tend:**  
**April 25th Tippecanoe County keynote lunch in and Family fun fest.**

**April 27th Elkhart county wear Blue for Kids day and Lifesaver Campaign.**  
**For all state and local events go to [www.pain.org](http://www.pain.org) or contact local prevent child abuse council.**

### Your contribution has helped support these important programs!

**The Villages/Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (PCAI)** provides primary prevention, or public awareness, regarding the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Activities include prevention education through presentations and conferences to professionals, parents, community members, and youth. In addition, PCAI distributes child abuse and neglect prevention materials and conducts prevention awareness activities particularly in the months surrounding Child Abuse Prevention Month (April). PCAI also supports local Child Abuse Prevention Councils and actively promotes the 1-800-CHILDREN line to pro-

vide parent information on a statewide basis.

**Community Partners for Child Safety (CPCS)** provides an array of child abuse and neglect prevention services in every region of the state. The program offers a service continuum that builds community support for families that are identified through self-referral or other community agency referral to connect families to resources needed to strengthen the families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

**Healthy Families Indiana** is a voluntary home visitation program designed to promote healthy families and healthy children

through a variety of services, including child development, access to health care and parent education. By working closely with hospital maternity wards, prenatal clinics and other local agencies, Healthy Families Indiana systematically identifies families that could benefit from education and support services either before or immediately after birth.

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### Vision

All of Indiana's children will be healthy and safe.

### Mission

To promote the well being of Indiana's children by funding initiatives that reduce infant mortality and prevent child abuse and neglect.

### Goals

1. Communicate the critical value of support and resources for Indiana's parents.
2. Establish and sustain a stable funding and leveraging plan for child abuse prevention resources.
3. Provide political and educational advocacy to promote awareness that child abuse is preventable.
4. Promote the coordination and collaboration of child abuse prevention strategies at the local, regional and state level within the public and private sectors.

## You Can Help Us Help the Children

### April is Prevent Child Abuse Month!



Preventing child abuse begins when everyone takes responsibility for making the community safe for all children. Children are the future of Indiana and deserve the best communities can offer. We all have a part to play in protecting them. Please, let's all get involved. Not only is it the right thing to do, we absolutely owe it to them.

A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds in the United States. The Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline received over 151,000 reports of child abuse just last year. The Agency responded to almost 95,000 of these reports to assess the allegations.

The sheer number of these reports is staggering. But the real tragedy is that each of these reports represents an Indiana child in harm's way.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The first official recognition of Prevent Child Abuse Month was in 1983 as Congress and other advocates looked for ways to increase public awareness of the need to protect children from abuse and neglect. Since that time blue ribbons and pinwheels have become symbols of the national movement to end child abuse.

The statistics are alarming. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that five children die every day as a consequence of child abuse. In Indiana, 198 innocent children died from abuse or neglect during State Fiscal Years 2006 through 2010. The vast major-

ity of those cases involved children under the age of five.

While child maltreatment is a complex problem, there are often contributing factors that play a role in abusive behavior: poverty, divorce, drug abuse, stress, and job loss, to name a few. While not all parents who face these challenges are child abusers, it is important for someone—a family member, friend, co-worker—to be there for that parent to offer support and get involved if there is a concern children may be in danger.

April is also a time to recognize that everyone in the community should play a part in promoting the well-being of children. As community members, we all play a big role in the positive development of our children. We have a tremendous influence on them, even when we think they're not watching. An involved, caring adult can prevent harm to a child caused by an abusing or neglectful parent.

We as a community can't sit silently and allow child abuse to continue. There are countless ways we can all get involved. Whether by becoming a foster or adoptive family, volunteering at or making financial contributions to local agencies, or simply spreading the word about awareness and prevention campaigns, everyone has a responsibility to prevent child abuse.

Local DCS offices and other entities have scheduled events throughout the state to coincide with National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Some will offer tips on how to recognize signs of abuse or neglect or how to report it. Others are featuring seminars or walk-a-thons and other fund-raisers. I encourage you to call your local Department of Child Services office to find out about events in your local area and then join us as we all work together to help keep Hoosier children safe. You can find the phone number to your local office by going to this website: <http://www.in.gov/dcs/2372.htm>.

### For More Information on how to help:

If you purchased a "Kids First" license plate we want to say thank you and show you how your funds are helping children in Indiana remain abuse and neglect free. If you are renewing your plate you are continuing to make a \$25 donation through the BMV. You can add an additional gift to KFTF by adding it to your renewal and marking it "Kids First Trust Fund". However, you do not have to purchase a license plate to make a donation. So please make a donation today Your financial support helps to protect children and preserve families.

Please contact the Indiana Kids First Trust Fund at 317-232-3477 [www.in.gov/dcs/prevention/grant.html](http://www.in.gov/dcs/prevention/grant.html) or visit the BMV website at [www.in.gov/bmv/platesandtitles/](http://www.in.gov/bmv/platesandtitles/)

If you are purchasing a Kids First license plate for the first time, you cannot do so online. You must visit your BMV branch office.

A license plate does not need to be purchased to donate to Kids First Trust.