



NEWS RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY PREPARING FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN APRIL

Orange County, VA – April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Orange County’s Office on Youth and Department of Social Services are partnering to help raise awareness of the role we can all play in ensuring great childhoods for all children.

Sadly, thousands of Virginia children suffer abuse and neglect each year. In 2018, every 13 minutes a child in the Commonwealth of Virginia died as a result of neglect or abuse. This statistic is a reminder to all of us that we can each find a way to ensure safe and happy childhoods for children.

Child Abuse Prevention Month activities across the Commonwealth and in Orange County will include:

- ❖ **PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION:** The planting of pinwheel “gardens” by organizations, schools and businesses throughout Virginia. The pinwheel is the shared symbol for child abuse prevention and reflects childhood hope, health, and happiness. The Orange County Department of Social Services and Office on Youth will be selling and “planting” pinwheel gardens to be placed in highly visible areas of Orange County. These gardens are available for \$35, and each participating organization, business, or individual will receive a 5X5 garden consisting of 25 pinwheels and a sign that provides the Virginia Child Abuse Hotline.
- ❖ **WEAR BLUE DAY:** April 3, 2020: Blue is the official color of child abuse and neglect prevention and on April 3rd, friends and advocates across Virginia will wear blue to represent their support of child abuse prevention month.
- ❖ **STRIKEOUT CHILD ABUSE:** Join the Orange County Office on Youth in its efforts to “STRIKE OUT” child abuse and neglect by attending the April 18th game of the Richmond Flying Squirrels. Tickets are on sale at the Office on Youth to support local prevention and awareness efforts as well as provide you and your family a fun evening together. Each ticket holder is encouraged to wear blue to the game on the 18th to show Orange County’s unity and commitment to putting an end to child abuse and neglect!

For more information on the aforementioned initiatives, please contact Ashley Jacobs at the Orange County Office on Youth at (540) 672-5484 or ajacobs@orangecountyva.gov.

For more information on how to keep children safe from abuse and neglect, visit www.orangecountyva.gov/officeonyouth, www.dss.virginia.gov, or www.pcav.org or call the Virginia Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 552-7096.

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