



NEWS RELEASE

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APRIL MARKS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN ORANGE COUNTY *Activities Highlight Efforts to Protect Children*

Orange County, VA – April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Orange County is partnering with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (PCAV) to help raise awareness of the role we can all play in ensuring great childhoods for all children in Virginia.

Together, with VDSS and PCAV, we believe that all children deserve a great childhood as children are our future. However, that is sadly not the case for many children in Virginia. Thousands of Virginia children suffer abuse and neglect each year. In FY 2015, there were 49,868 children reported as possible victims of abuse and neglect, and of those children, there were 48 confirmed deaths due to abuse and neglect.

These statistics are a reminder to all of us that we can each find a way to ensure safe and happy childhoods for children. The 2016 Virginia Child Abuse Prevention Month theme, “Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect: Educate. Guide. Protect.” promotes the idea that together, communities can unite in their efforts to prevent the abuse and neglect of children in our Commonwealth.

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, including at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Richmond. The pinwheel is the shared symbol for child abuse prevention and reflects childhood hope, health, and happiness. The Orange County Office on Youth will be accepting donations for pinwheels to be “planted” in highly visible areas of Orange County. Each \$1.00 received will be used to purchase a pinwheel from Prevent Child Abuse Virginia. Remaining proceeds will benefit Orange County Food Pantries. Send your donation to the Office on Youth (146 N. Madison Road, Suite 205, Orange, Virginia 22960) and see hundreds of pinwheels planted in Orange County. For more information on how to order a pinwheel, please call (540) 672-5484 or visit www.orangecountyva.gov/officeonyouth.
- ❖ **WEAR BLUE DAY:** April 4, 2016. Blue is the official color of child abuse and neglect prevention and on April 4th, friends and advocates across Virginia will wear blue to represent their support of Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- ❖ **INN AT WILLOW GROVE FUNDRAISER:** Join us on Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a delicious meal that will benefit the Orange County Office on Youth and Child Abuse Prevention Month efforts! 10% of all proceeds from the Vintage Restaurant will go to the Office on Youth. A raffle will also be held and 100% of the profits will go towards Office on Youth activities.

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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