

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services and
Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

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Go Blue to Support Child Abuse Prevention

Wear Blue Day and Pinwheels for Prevention Centerpieces of Prevention Month

BISMARCK, N.D. – *April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in North Dakota.* The N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division and Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota are teaming up to raise awareness about child abuse prevention and the role North Dakotans can fulfill in valuing children and strengthening families.

One way North Dakotans can help bring attention to the issue is to participate in the statewide **"Wear Blue Day" on Friday, April 12, 2013.**

"People of all ages can help spread the message through a visual display of support by wearing blue to work, to school, at home, or to a community function," said Tim Hathaway, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota."

Another visual display of support for child abuse prevention efforts is the Pinwheel for Prevention campaign. Thousands of silver and blue pinwheels will be on display in communities across the state such as courthouse lawns, main streets, community gardens, medical facilities, and schools and universities.

Communities participating in the pinwheel campaign will also hold coordinated special events in April including parenting classes and fairs, conferences, walks, in-school activities, and other family activities. A calendar of events is online at <http://pcand.org/news-a-events/events.html>.

"Strengthening families and preventing child abuse requires a shared commitment of individuals and organizations in every community," said Shari Doe, director of the department's Children and Family Services Division. "The events planned this month will bring communities together and help support the well-being of children and families."

The N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division funds child abuse and neglect prevention efforts across the state and partners with Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota to provide statewide education and prevention programming.

If individuals suspect a child is being abused or neglected, they should call their county social services office. County information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/. The 53 county social services offices serve as the department's authorized agents for child protection services.

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