

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2017

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Communities hold events to support Child Abuse Prevention Month

Bismarck, N.D. – Gov. Burgum has proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division and Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota have awarded grant funding to 19 grantees for community projects that educate and raise awareness about child abuse prevention.

Community grantees receiving funding include Golden Valley and Billings County Social Services, **Beach** and **Medora**; Children's Advocacy Center of North Dakota, **Bismarck**; Burke and Renville County Social Services, **Bowbells** and **Mohall**; Bowman and Slope County Social Services, **Bowman** and **Amidon**; Foster, Eddy, and Wells County Social Services, **Carrington**, **New Rockford**, and **Fessenden**; Divide County Social Services, **Crosby**; West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center - North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service and Dickinson Public Schools, **Dickinson**; Red River Children's Advocacy Center and Region 5 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service, **Fargo**; Spirit Lake Nation and Region 3 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service, **Fort Totten** and **Langdon**; Region 4 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service, **Grand Forks**; Adams County Social Services, **Hettinger**; Nelson County Social Services, **Lakota**; Region 3 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service (Ramsey, Towner, and Cavalier counties), **Langdon**; Ransom and Sargent County Social Services, **Lisbon** and **Forman**; Region 7 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service, **Mandan**; Region 2 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service, **Minot**; Rolette County Social Services, **Rolla**; Kidder County Social Services, **Steele**; and Region 6 Parent Resource Center - NDSU Extension Service, **Valley City**.

Throughout the month, each participating community coalition will use funding to coordinate special educational events and projects like parenting classes and fairs, conferences and workshops, walks, pinwheel gardens, in-school activities, coloring contests, and other family-focused activities.

"April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children and strengthening families," said Chris Jones, executive director of the Department of Human Services. "Connecting with families is the best thing communities can do to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect."

Some community activities include:

Beach

- Family Fun Night, Tues., April 25, 5 to 7 p.m. (MDT), Lincoln Elementary, 201 First Ave. S.E.

Crosby

- Adult showing of *Paper Tigers*, a documentary about adverse childhood experiences, Mon., April 17, 6:30 p.m., Dakota Theatre, 219 N. Main St.

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Devils Lake

- Crossroads of Parenting and Divorce parent education workshop, Sat., April 22, 1 to 5 p.m., Village Family Service Center, 224 Fourth St., N.W.
- Color Fun Run, Sat., April 29, 9 a.m., Ruger Park

Dickinson

- Children's Health and Safety Fair, Thurs., April 27, 3 to 6:30 p.m. (MDT), West River Ice Center, 1865 Empire Rd.

Fargo

- Community night featuring a speaker and screening of the Disney/Pixar film *Inside Out*, Sat., April 29, 1 to 3 p.m., Southwest Youth Ice Arena, 4404 23rd Ave. S.

Grand Forks

- Hands-On Learning Fair, Sat., April 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Purpur Arena, 1122 Seventh Ave. S.
- Transforming the Difficult Child: The Nurtured Heart Approach® parenting classes, April 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 17, 31, Noon to 1 p.m., Grand Forks County Building, 151 S. Fourth St., Third floor.

Lakota

- Parent education workshop series *Parenting the Love and Logic Way*, April 10, 17 and 24, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Nelson County Courthouse basement, 210 B Ave. W.

Valley City

- Children's concert featuring North Dakota entertainers *Penny and Pals*, Sat., April 8, 10 to 11 a.m., Old Rec Center, 140 Fourth St. S.W.

A full calendar of events is online at www.pcand.org - select calendar tab. Individuals can also follow *#greatchildhoods* and *#wearbluedaynd* on social media or *PreventChildAbuseNorthDakota* on Instagram to see photos of child abuse prevention events from around the state including today's Wear Blue Day.

"We all play a role in creating safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments that are central to the great childhoods that all children deserve," said Sandy Tibke, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota. "This month is a special time for communities to work together to prevent child abuse and neglect and to enhance the well-being of children and families."

The Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division supports and funds numerous statewide child abuse and neglect prevention programs and activities in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, the NDSU Extension Service - Parent Education Network, and other public and private partners.

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. If a child is in immediate danger, individuals should contact law enforcement.

The Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily.