

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in North Dakota

Child Abuse Prevention Education Spreads to North Dakota Communities

Bismarck, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division and Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota have awarded grant funding to 15 North Dakota coalitions for projects to help educate parents, grandparents, community members, teachers, and others about the importance of creating a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment that can prevent child abuse and neglect.

The coalitions receiving funding include Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, **Bismarck**; Divide County Social Services, **Crosby**; West Dakota Parent Resource Center, **Dickinson**; Red River Children's Advocacy Center, **Fargo**; Standing Rock/Sioux County Social Services, **Fort Yates**; University of North Dakota Social Work Department, **Grand Forks**; Cavalier, Ramsey, Towner Parent Resource Center, **Langdon** and **Devils Lake**; Morton County Parent Resource Center, **Mandan**; Minot State University Social Work Organization, **Minot**; Eddy, Foster and Wells County Social Services, **New Rockford**; Three Affiliated Tribes Social Services, **New Town**; Kidder County Social Services, **Tappen** and **Steele**; Barnes County Social Services, **Valley City**; Wahpeton Early Childhood Association, **Wahpeton**; and Williams County Social Services, **Williston**.

Each participating community coalition will use the funding to coordinate special educational events and projects this month including parenting classes and fairs, conferences, walks, in-school activities, and other family fun activities. A calendar of events is online at <http://www.stopchildabusend.com/programs/child-abuse-prevention-month.html>.

"Child abuse prevention requires community engagement," said Tara Muhlhauser, director of the Children and Family Services Division. "The support created when community members work hand-in-hand can help enrich and strengthen the lives of children and their families."

The centerpiece of the child abuse prevention effort is the Pinwheel for Prevention campaign. Thousands of silver and blue pinwheels will be on display in prominent community locations such as courthouse lawns, main streets, community gardens, medical facilities, and schools and universities.

"The pinwheel helps draw attention to community events that encourage prevention from the start to ensure child abuse and neglect never happen," said Tim Hathaway, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota.

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 <http://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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