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**Trumbull County Children Services Kicks off Child Abuse Prevention Month with Pinwheel Display and Encourages Vigilance in Reporting Child Abuse**

Trumbull County Children Services (TCCS) will hold their annual Pinwheels for Prevention Ceremony at Warren G. Harding High School Student Recreation and Wellness Center in Warren on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 1:30 pm. Marilyn Pape, the Executive Director of TCCS, will address the importance of “see something, say something,” especially during times when children may be isolated.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Pinwheels for Prevention Awareness Campaign is the kick-off event. TCCS has held the Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign for the last 20 years. Throughout the month of April our staff will wear blue to show our unwavering support for a safe, loving home for every child.

Our traditional pinwheel garden will be planted in front of Warren G. Harding High School on March 29 by the Touch of Class Horse Club. The display will hold 1,302 pinwheels, each representing one report of child maltreatment in Trumbull County in 2024. The pinwheels also represent the adults who became an advocate for a child by reporting suspected abuse or neglect.

Pinwheels for Prevention is based on the belief that while the public understands that child abuse is a serious problem, there is less understanding of what it means to prevent child abuse and neglect and the role we play in speaking up for prevention. Here are steps we can all take as a community to ensure our children are safe.

1. For the safety of any child, “if you see something, say something.” In addition to mandated reporters, any concerned citizen can make a good faith report to Children Services when abuse or neglect is suspected. Your report is 100% anonymous.
2. Learn more about child abuse prevention and become a messenger for prevention. Our agency has a speaker’s bureau of employees who will present to community groups about our services and prevention.
3. Lend your voice to bring about change for children in the United States and affect the policies that impact children and their communities.
4. Volunteer your time and talent to organizations that focus on children and their families and helping our community bring services to families with mental illness, substance abuse, and violence, which in most cases play a role in child maltreatment.
5. Consider becoming a foster caregiver or a mentor to a child in our care. These compassionate members of our team stand in the gap for our kids, while our Agency works with families to create safe and stable homes for their return.

For more information about our services or to learn more about becoming a foster caregiver or a mentor to a child in our care, please contact Anne-Marie Mendenhall at 330-372-2010 or AnnMarie.Mendenhall@jfs.ohio.gov.

For questions about the event, please contact Allesha Ciminero at 330-372-2010, ext. 1343. Media contact on the day of the event is Allesha Ciminero, 330-507-1671.

Trumbull County Children Services, in partnership with families and the community, protects and advocates for children in crisis or at risk of abuse and neglect. The Agency assesses risk and builds on family strengths in seeking to maintain or reunite children with safe families. We perform this mandate with compassion, respect, and professionalism to families in Trumbull County.