



Prevent Child Abuse Illinois



children's home + aid



Prevent Child Abuse America



strengthening families THROUGH EARLY CARE & EDUCATION ILLINOIS



Turning Choices Into Change... Making a Difference for Children!

For Immediate Release

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Local child advocacy organizations and state agencies kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month

Public and private organizations help "Turn Choices into Change"

Springfield (April 2, 2007)— Dozens of child welfare advocates from public and private agencies are joining together to "Turn Choices into Change" at the 2007 Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Off Event.

This year's event will take place from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. on Monday, April 2, 2007, at KICKS Family Entertainment Center, 2744 South Sixth Street, Springfield. Invited special guests include Senator Richard Durbin; Louanner Peters, Deputy Governor, Office of the Governor; and Secretary Carol Adams, Illinois Department of Human Services.

This celebration is one of three events taking place throughout Illinois. Similar events are taking place in Chicago and Edwardsville.

"Nationwide, the month of April is devoted to celebrating and supporting the collaborative efforts involved in transforming communities into nurturing environments that protect children and strengthen families," said Erwin McEwen, Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. "Today we are celebrating all of our community partners for making a difference in the lives of children."

Event festivities include resource table displays for families and agencies working with families, children's activities, blue ribbons, pinwheels, refreshments and more. The theme of this year's event is "Turning Choices into Change... Making a Difference for Children!" and supports the notion that protecting children from the risk of abuse and neglect is everyone's responsibility.

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



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Turning Choices Into Change...
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“Our choices affect change at the governmental, community and individual levels on the systems that support healthy community and family development,” said Roy Harley, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Illinois.

Harley noted that prevention opportunities include:

- Encouraging parents to play and talk with their children.
- Educating parents about what they can expect at different stages of their child’s life.
- Offering healthy ways to cope with stress.
- Connecting parents to a support network.
- Helping families access needed resources in the community.

Throughout the month of April, various festivities will take place across Illinois in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Individuals in the community who suspect situations of child abuse or neglect should call the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services’ hotline at 800-25-ABUSE.

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