

# Hancock County Center for Safe and Healthy Children



## Contact Information

Hancock County Center for Safe and Healthy Children

1800 N. Blanchard St.

Suite 108

Findlay, Ohio 45840

419-425-1475

Fax: 419-425-1643

### **Julie Banner**

Coordinator

Reception

@hancocksafekids.org

### **Kristen K. Johnson**

Board President

419-424-7099

### **Richard G. Van Mooy**

Vice President

419-422-7525

### **Diana Hoover**

Secretary

419-424-7022

### **William H. Spraw**

Treasurer

419-424-7154

### **Additional Board Members**

Kathleen Crates

Gregory Smith

Tonnie Guagenti

Wendy Frost

Denise Hoy

Kristen Napier

Christine Carrigan

Kathleen Abbott

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

On April 15, 2009 the Hancock County Job and Family Services Children’s Protective Services Unit along with many representatives from the community will be “planting” 366 pinwheels on the courthouse lawn. Each pinwheel represents a report of an abused or neglected child in Hancock County. This is a kickoff ceremony for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Blue Ribbon along with the pinwheel has been symbolic for this month and here is why.....

In the spring of 1989, Bonnie Finney, a Norfolk, Virginia grandmother, took a stand against child abuse when she tied a symbolic ribbon to her van. It was a signal to her community of personal commitment to involve everyone in the battle to stop child abuse.

Bonnie’s own grandson, Michael Wayne “Bubba” Dickenson, was a tragic victim of child abuse. His death gave her blue ribbon its own inspiring message. In her words.....

“The blue ribbon serves as a constant reminder to fight for protection for our children. We must protect our most precious gift of all...our children. Please wear a blue ribbon...put one on your car...give one to your friends....tell them what it means...you may save a child’s life!

The spirit of her Blue Ribbon grew until it inspired a statewide community-based effort to prevent and stop child abuse in every town, city, and country. Can one person make a difference? Bonnie Finney did! And you can too!

### Interesting Fact:

Laws regarding “cruelty” were first created for the humane treatment of animals on February 8, 1866. It was not until many years later that children were granted that same consideration. Child labor laws were enacted in 1906 but did not provide protection from other forms of abuse. Without laws specific to child maltreatment, severely abused children would fall under the animal welfare laws as a member of the animal kingdom. It was not until the 1968, after the book “The Battered Child” was published (authors Dr. C. Henry Kempe and Ray E. Helfer), did the community acknowledge that parents and caregivers truly could and did physically harm their children.



## Summary of our Recent Fundraisers

"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them.

Lady Bird Johnson

March was full of fundraisers for our Center. On March 21st we had our first Murder Mystery Dinner at the Findlay Elks. Dinner was catered by The Bistro and entertainment provided by Random Acts from Toledo. Several members of our audience were picked to participate and did an amazing job! Who knew we had such performers among us! Everyone had a fun time and many have said they would do it again next year. Our grand prize winner was Robin Hopkins. Robin won a gift certificate to The Bistro, an Easy share Camera and a gift basket with a variety of nuts from Wolf's Gourmet Nuts.

Our second fundraiser for March was the Battle of the Badges Basketball game, between the Findlay Police Department and the Hancock County Sheriff's Office. This was the second year for the game and provided great entertainment for those involved. We had many great items that were donated for raffles. In the end the Sheriff's Office prevailed with a score of 62-53. We truly appreciate everyone that participated in either or both of these events. The support our community has shown to us has been encouraging.

## Why was April selected as Child Abuse Prevention/Awareness Month?

In the early 1980s, Congress made a further commitment to identifying and implementing solutions to child abuse. Recognizing the alarming rate at which children continued to be abused and neglected and the need for innovative programs to prevent child abuse and assist parents and families affected by maltreatment, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives resolved that the week of June 6-12, 1982, should be designated as the first National Child Abuse Prevention Week. They asked the President to issue a proclamation calling upon Government agencies and the public to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

The following year, April was proclaimed the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since then, child abuse and neglect awareness activities have been promoted across the country during April of each year. The Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) within the Children's Bureau coordinates Child Abuse Prevention Month, providing information and releasing updated national statistics about child abuse and neglect each April.

In Title II of the CAPTA amendments of 1996, the Children's Bureau was charged with identifying a lead agency in each State for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grants. These grants support the development, operation, and expansion of initiatives to prevent child abuse and neglect, as well as the coordination of resources and activities to strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment. CBCAP grantees within each State often take a leadership role in coordinating special events and preparing materials to support Child Abuse Prevention Month. Regardless of their role, CBCAP grantees are required to report annually on their Child Abuse Prevention Month activities.

In 2003, as part of the 20th anniversary of the original Presidential Proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, OCAN recast the National Child Abuse Prevention Initiative as a year-long effort.

This initiative was launched at the 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, which was devoted to the theme of prevention. A national press conference there was the setting for the release of the publication [\*Emerging Practices in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect\*](#).

The expansion of the Child Abuse Prevention Initiative was consistent with priorities of the Administration for Children and Families and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. OCAN and Child Welfare Information Gateway (formerly, the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information) partnered with the broader child abuse prevention community to raise awareness of the issue through a variety of tools, resources, activities, and public awareness events. Many of these materials have been made available in print and [on the web](#) to related Federal agencies, organizations, and concerned citizens in communities nationwide.

In 2004, there was emerging consensus among national child abuse prevention organizations and related Federal agencies that building public will for child abuse prevention required engaging the public in efforts to strengthen and support families and enhance parenting skills. Building on this national momentum, OCAN shifted the focus of its child abuse prevention resources to incorporate a family strengthening message promoting parenting and community support. Today, the Child Abuse Prevention Initiative is an opportunity for communities across the country to keep children safe, provide the support families need to stay together, and raise children and youth to be happy, secure, and stable adults.



## *Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children*

The Center for Safe and Healthy Children will begin trainings in Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children. Darkness to Light curriculum was created to educate and support you in protecting children from sexual abuse. In this training you will receive a mix of survivor stories, expert advice, and practical guidance for preventing child sexual abuse. The most important message you will receive in this training is that child sexual abuse prevention and response are an adult's job. Our children need us. They can be empowered with awareness and choice, but the real responsibility for protecting children must be shouldered by adults. You will be given some simple strategies for the prevention of sexual abuse through the 7 Steps to Protecting our Children.

You will learn that the resolution of child sexual abuse can contribute to resolving major social issues, such as violent crime, teen pregnancy, and substance abuse. You will begin to understand the art of compassion even in the face of something very difficult.

Classes will be limited to a maximum of 25 with a charge of \$10 per person. Class time is 2 1/2 hours. This includes an interactive workbook and 7 Steps guide. **Our next available class is April 28th from 4-6:30p at the Family Center.** If you or your organization are interested in scheduling please call 419-425-1475.

Schools **call now** to schedule training times for next school years in-service days. Dates are filling up.

It is highly likely that you know a child that has been or is being sexually abused.

- Experts estimate that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before their 18th birthday.
- 1 in 5 children are sexually solicited while on the Internet
- Most child victims never report the abuse.
- An estimated 39 million survivors of sexual abuse exist in America.



## *How You Can Help*

As a non profit organization we rely on donations from the community to help with the daily operation of our Center. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

We accept office supplies such as white copy paper, letter size envelopes, soda etc., gift cards to: office supply stores, grocery stores, Wal Mart, Meijer.

We also accept new children's clothing or toys, or monetary donations to buy clothing or toys, to be given to needy children who visit our office or receive services at Job and Family

Services, including foster children.

We also accept for those in foster care; formula, diapers, wipes, onsies, grooming and bath kits and school supplies.

Monetary donations specifically for The Hancock County Tooth Fairy program to pay for the orthodontics of children in foster care in Hancock County.

If you are interested in contributing to the Center for Safe and Healthy Children call us at 419-425-1475.

Contributions to the Center are used to break the cycle of child abuse & neglect. The Center's ability to help an ever increasing number of children depends on the kindness and generosity of donations.



## Hancock County Center for Safe and Healthy Children

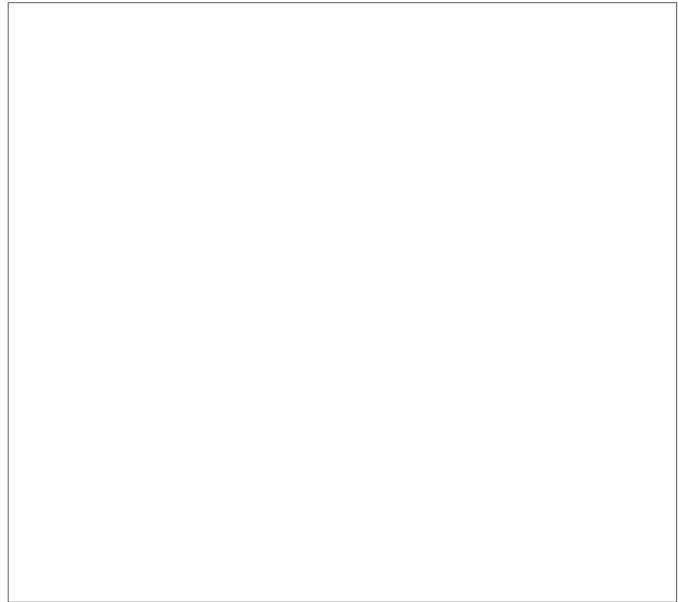
1800 North Blanchard Street  
Suite 108  
Findlay, Ohio 45840  
419-425-1475  
Fax: 419-425-1643

“ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED”

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Check out our new website at  
[www.hancocksafekids.org](http://www.hancocksafekids.org)

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### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Upcoming events that are being planned by the fundraising committee of the Center are:

Chicken BBQ-late spring –early summer

Yankee Candle Sale—October 2009

Volleyball Tournament April 24, 2009 hosted by Cory Rawson student council.

The Center also has been selling **Wolfie's Premium Gourmet Nuts** as an ongoing fundraiser. If you would like a box to sell at your office just give us a call!

Use **[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)** and we will receive money every time you search. Also use **[www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)** for all your shopping needs!

Chow Now for Charity - Findlay NOW magazine is hosting a monthly luncheon at a different restaurant the first Wednesday of each month. Those who dine in or carry out between 11:00a.m.-1p.m. get to vote for their favorite Charity. A portion of the proceeds goes to the organization whose name is then picked out of all the ballots.

If you would prefer an electronic version of this newsletter or would like taken off our mailing list please email [reception@hancocksafekids.org](mailto:reception@hancocksafekids.org)

