



Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Hamilton County Job and Family Services, Hamilton County Family and Children's First Council, Southwest Ohio Council on Child Abuse, Every Child Succeeds, YWCA Greater Cincinnati

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dramatic display to build awareness about child abuse

Cincinnati, OH (March 2006) -- Imagine the sight of more than 5,500 pinwheels on a grassy lot—all lined up in neat rows, spinning in the breeze. Then, think about the fact that each represents a reported case of child abuse or neglect in Hamilton County in a year. Children's Hospital, Hamilton County Job and Family Services and several other organizations plan to bring that image – and reality -- to Hamilton County this spring.

What: Hamilton County's first *Pinwheels for Prevention* display (5,500 pinwheels)

When: April 4-9

Where: Grassy lot south of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Why: Build awareness about the magnitude of child abuse and ways to prevent it

Who: Children's Hospital, Hamilton County Job and Family Services, Hamilton County Family and Children's First Council, Southwest Ohio Council on Child Abuse, Every Child Succeeds and YWCA Greater Cincinnati also are involved.

How: Counties across the country are following the lead of those in Georgia and participating in this up-and-coming event

Photo/video opportunities:

1:30-3:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 4

About 40 students from the Family and Children's First Leadership Team at Aiken High School will place 5,580 colorful pinwheels in neat rows. (Engineers from GE laid out the lot. Participants in a program for adults with developmental disabilities, Project Search, assembled the pinwheels.) Backgrounds include Suspension Bridge, Great American Ballpark, Paul Brown Stadium and Freedom Center. An attention-grabbing banner will be posted on the lot.

8:45-9:15 a.m., Wednesday, April 5

County officials and leaders of child-abuse prevention organizations – as well as the father of a victim of Shaken Baby Syndrome – will participate in this moving ceremony.

Background:

Many citizens are unaware of how widespread the problems of child abuse and neglect are in their local communities. Pinwheels for Prevention is designed to show the public in a dramatic way that child abuse and neglect happen in every community--and encourage everyone to focus on prevention to break the cycle of abuse.

More and more counties have been holding Pinwheels for Prevention events since their invention by Prevent Child Abuse Georgia several years ago. In Ohio, 34 counties plan Pinwheels displays this year—up from 12 in 2005.

