



Community Leaders Cast Light on Child Abuse and Neglect

More than 5,600 Reports of Child Abuse Logged in Hamilton County in 2005

Cincinnati, Ohio (March 22, 2007) More than 5,600 colorful pinwheels – each representing a report of child abuse or neglect to Hamilton County’s 241-KIDS hotline – will be planted near the Underground Railroad Freedom Center March 29 in a dramatic attempt by community leaders to draw attention to one of the area’s more horrific problems.

Pinwheels for Prevention is part of Prevent Child Abuse Ohio’s statewide campaign to promote awareness and prevention of child abuse. Many citizens are unaware of how widespread the problem of child abuse and neglect is in their local communities. The colorful pinwheels, each representing the report of an abused child, depict this in a very dramatic way.

Hamilton County joins 65 other Ohio counties participating in Pinwheels for Prevention as a kick off to Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

“Child abuse is a plague that no community wants, and I can guarantee this community is working hard to wipe it out,” said Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune, who will join other community leaders in discussing the topic near the Freedom Center at 11 a.m. “I dream of a day when there are no pinwheels to plant.”

This year’s Pinwheels event is sponsored by Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Hamilton County’s Department of Job and Family Services, Hamilton County’s Family and Children First Council, the Council on Child Abuse of Southern Ohio, Inc., the Cincinnati Police Department and the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Department.

A few dozen children of Cincinnati Public Schools will begin planting pinwheels in the ground prior to the ceremony. Speakers include Portune, Lee Carter, chairman of Children’s Hospital Medical Center, representatives from the Department of Job and Family Services and the parent of a survivor of Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Here are the details on this year's event:

What: Pinwheels for Prevention ceremony

When: 11 a.m., March 29 (best time for pictures of students planting the pinwheels is an hour or so before the event)

Where: Grassy lot south of the Freedom Center (concrete area on northern edge of lot) In case of rain, the event will be held indoors.

Who: Community leaders and Cincinnati Public School students

Why: To promote the awareness and prevention of child abuse and neglect

For more information, call:

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