**Child Abuse Prevention Month 2024**

**Chapter Talking Points**

**CAP Month Main Messages**

* Throughout CAP Month, Prevention Child Abuse Florida and our partners are building a narrative of hope for children and families through collaboration and the creation of an ecosystem of primary prevention. Communities must build positive futures together in partnership.
* Each day is an opportunity to build the foundation for our future. Together our powerful network of prevention advocates and practitioners throughout Florida are ready to provide families what they need before they are in crisis. We know we can’t do this alone – we all have a role to play as healthy partners in our communities.
* Each year, organizations around Florida gather together to plant pinwheels that symbolize a commitment to supporting families and protecting children.
* It is a reminder that we all can play a part in helping children grow up happy and healthy.
* The work being done across our state to strengthen families is gaining greater momentum every day. The child welfare system is vast – and we are thankful for every social worker, law enforcement officer, guardian ad litem, counselor, and thousands of others in this system who wake up each day with a dedication to helping others in their hearts.
* Remember, we all have the ability to make a positive impact in the lives of children – not just this month, but every day of the year.
* Building healthy communities takes work. We all have a responsibility to ensure children have

positive experiences, and help families have the resources they need, when they need them.

* Strong communities are built on stable foundations. Everyone benefits when we focus on addressing underlying causes that lead to health and social inequities.
* Working in partnership can allow us to relieve some of the overload experienced by parents and caregivers.
* All children, parents, and families should be able to access the support and resources they need, when they need it, in their own communities, without stigma before they are in crisis.
* Prevention is hard work, but it is also heart work. We listen to families and lift them up.
* Home visiting provides the glue that can help families stick together as they navigate the questions and concerns that often overwhelm parents during pregnancy and the first few years of their child’s life.
* Childhood lasts a lifetime. Learn more at preventchildabusefl.org.

**Prevention in Partnership**

* Prevention is possible and everyone plays a role.
* The risk to our nation’s children for experiencing child abuse and neglect in times of extreme stress and uncertainty is quite high.
* Challenging life circumstances can overload and overburden parents and caregivers. Just like how a vehicle burdened with too much weight may be unable to move forward, overburdened parents and caregivers may be unable to provide the necessary care and support to their children.
* Community support and partnerships can help lighten the burden on families.
* We have an extraordinary opportunity to partner with families and communities and build an ecosystem from the ground up that is focused on primary prevention.
* An aligned and comprehensive primary prevention ecosystem includes families, communities, elected officials and policy makers, and cross-sector (e.g., child welfare, education, business and economic development, health, housing, government, etc.) organizations and institutions at regional, state, and national levels.
* In partnership, we can disrupt long-held beliefs about prevention systems.
* This month, and all year long, you can help Prevent Child Abuse Florida advance prevention programs and policies by taking action.
	+ You can show support for promoting positive childhood experiences and preventing adversity by wearing blue on April 5th for #WearBlueDay to kick off CAP Month with momentum.
	+ You can help plant a pinwheel garden in your community – a visual reminder of the world we want for all children to grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed. Click here to order pinwheels or go digital and plant one online here. You can contribute to your local chapter with this effort.
	+ Throughout the month, you can make a tax-deductible gift to Prevent Child Abuse Florida or our state chapter by visiting preventchildabusefl.org.