

PRESS RELEASE (Region 7)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PARTY TO CELEBRATE CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PREVENTION

The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund is celebrating its twenty-five years of child abuse and neglect prevention with birthday parties to be held throughout the state during April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each party will feature the community programs supported by the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund, programs which teach parenting skills, provide afterschool support, offer crisis help and more. Civic leaders, and the public as well, are invited to attend the parties and learn more about child abuse and neglect prevention. The new Pinwheels for Prevention campaign of Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana will also be unveiled at the events.

"Child abuse and neglect can be prevented" says Judy Harrison, Director of the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund. "The reasons that parents abuse their children often have to do with lack of support or lack of knowledge. By educating parents about child development, appropriate discipline, safety measures and community resources we can do a great deal to reduce the problem of child abuse and neglect".

The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund provides over \$1 million statewide to child abuse and neglect prevention programs. Among the local CTF supported programs are:

- Gingerbread House: Children's Advocacy Center
- North Louisiana AHEC
- Project Celebration
- Providence House
- Shreveport-Bossier Community Renewal
- St. Catherine Community Center
- VOA of North Louisiana

- Volunteers for Youth Justice
- Ware Youth Center
- YWCA of Northwest Louisiana

Area citizens concerned about child abuse and neglect are invited to join us for birthday cake and to learn about area child abuse and neglect prevention resources on Wednesday, April 23rd, at 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Christus Schumpert Sutton's Children's Hospital Community Center, located at 915 Margaret Place, Shreveport.

Your opinions about child abuse and neglect prevention are also being collected via a computer survey. To participate in the survey, please go to:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=oh_2bkapnphKoa5kIf_2gwFkaA_3d_3d .

For further information please call Sharon Jenkinson-Reed, PCAL, at 318-425-8060.

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