

PRESS RELEASE (Region 8)

For Further Information:

Elain Ellerbe, PCAL 225-925-9520 ext. 213

Michele Rabalais, LCTF 1-800-256-5437

Susan Delle Shaffette, ResourceWorks 985-674-9049

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:

- ARCO, A Community Resource
- Boys & Girls Club of West Monroe
- The Center for Children and Families
- Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana
- North Louisiana AHEC
- Ouachita Parish School Board – NELA Family Literacy Interagency Consortium
- Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana

- Richland Parish Hospital
- United Way of NELA
- University of Louisiana at Monroe

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 Thursday, April 24th, at 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Children's Coalition of NELA, located at 1363 Louisville Avenue, Monroe.

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 Elain Ellerbe, PCAL, at 225-925-9520 ext. 213.

###