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STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prevent Child Abuse America addresses the findings that child abuse and neglect cases have declined

CHICAGO, IL, March 20, 2012- In response to the release of *Child Maltreatment 2010*, the latest in the annual series of reports on child maltreatment incidence, published by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, Jim Hmurovich, President and CEO, of Prevent Child Abuse America, released the following statement regarding Prevent Child Abuse America's response, *Understanding Child Maltreatment 2010: Interpreting and applying the data to the Prevent Child Abuse America prevention message* and the Bureau's:

"*Child Maltreatment 2010* indicates a continued decline in maltreatment, something that should be celebrated. This decline also indicates the necessity for continued investments in prevention services so the annual decline can be accelerated from a 0.1% (or 1 child per 1,000) decrease in maltreatment from 2009 to 2010, to something much more substantial in future years.

"As a nation, it is critical for each of us to do our part to build experiences and community environments that promote healthy child development. We all have a role to play that can range from helping a stressed neighbor get through tough times, volunteering at a youth serving organization or encouraging public policies that consider the important implications that childhood adversities like abuse or severe neglect can have even as a child transitions to adulthood.

"Reading *Child Maltreatment 2010* also reinforces the importance of building a strong network of community resources to support children and families; resources such as home visiting, parent information, sexual abuse prevention and Shaken Baby Syndrome services. These services help lay a strong foundation for children's later growth and development, which will reduce the possibility of more serious, and expensive, problems from developing later.

"Parents, teachers and community members depend on the support of these services and that's why Prevent Child Abuse America helped found the National Movement for America's Children (movementforchildren.org) to create a National Strategy for America's Children and to ensure that



policies and services are put in place and maintained to provide every child in America with an equal opportunity for healthy childhood development.”

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ABOUT PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA

Prevent Child Abuse America, founded in 1972 in Chicago, works to ensure the healthy development of children nationwide. The organization promotes that vision through a network of chapters in 49 states and over 400 Healthy Families America, home visitation sites in 37 states, the Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and Canada. A major organizational focus is to advocate for the existence of a national policy framework and strategy for children and families while promoting evidence-based practices that prevent abuse and neglect from ever occurring. To learn more about what we’re doing to prevent child abuse and neglect and how you can help, please visit our websites, preventchildabuse.org and healthyfamiliesamerica.org