

Dear Colleagues:

Child abuse is a national tragedy, taking the lives of three children every day and affecting millions of children and families every year. Each April, Child Abuse Prevention Month activities raise awareness about this problem—and most importantly, about what each of us can do to help prevent the abuse and neglect of our Nation's children. This can only be done if we, both as a society and as individuals, take responsibility to offer parents and families the support and tools they need to provide healthy, nurturing homes for their children.

This year, to mark the 20th anniversary of the first presidential proclamation of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, is working with its National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information and partnering with Prevent Child Abuse America to develop this community resource packet to promote child abuse prevention activities in April and throughout the year. We hope these materials, developed with the valuable input of child abuse prevention partners around the country, will help you carry on this important work in your community.

This year's theme, "Gateways to Prevention," describes the many strategies we as child advocates can use to build strong communities in which families and children are supported and valued. It is our desire to mobilize everyone in a community to seek a gateway through which they can help protect children and support families. To that end, this packet includes materials and resources to support your community's unique local efforts. Materials in this packet address:

- **Child Abuse Prevention: An Overview.** Definitions and statistics on child abuse and neglect; why prevention is key to addressing the problem.
- **What Organizations Can Do.** Suggested child abuse prevention activities and supporting materials, including resources for working with the media.
- **What Individuals Can Do.** Information about what individuals can do to prevent child abuse and neglect, how to recognize and report suspected maltreatment, and tips to help foster positive parenting.
- **Resource Directory.** Information about national organizations working to prevent child abuse, and their State or local chapters.

These materials are designed for reproduction and distribution throughout your community to help spread the word that everyone has a role to play to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Child abuse prevention activities reaffirm our belief in the resilience of the American spirit and its power to bring renewed energy and commitment to securing the future of our Nation's children and families. We are pleased that you are joining us in this effort.

Sincerely,



Susan Orr, Ph.D.  
Associate Commissioner  
Children's Bureau  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



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President & CEO  
Prevent Child Abuse America