



Northern Kentucky CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

CONTACT: JULIE BUDDEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHONE: 859-525-1128

1,957 Pinwheels Represent Reported Cases of NKY Child Abuse in 2013

NKYCAC Urges Community to 'Be The End' for Child Abuse

FLORENCE, KY. – April 8, 2014 The Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center is planting 1,957 pinwheels outside its Houston Road facility on Thursday, April 10, 2014 to remind neighbors and the community that everyone can "Be the End" of child abuse. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and each pinwheel planted outside the NKYCAC sadly represents a case of reported child abuse in Northern Kentucky during 2013.

This year there is a new partnership between the Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center and the Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass in Lexington, KY. By jointly introducing a new campaign, "Be the End", the mission of keeping children safe from abuse across the Commonwealth is shared with goals to raise awareness and education about the identification and prevention of child abuse. "Be the End" encourages all adults to be a voice for any child suffering from abuse, and emphasizes the importance of learning signs of abuse to keep children safe.

"Children may think they cannot tell or may not know how to express what is happening to them," said Vickie Henderson, NKYCAC Executive Director. "This is why it is an adult responsibility to learn possible signs of abuse and recognize if a child is being harmed," she added. "It is possible to prevent abuse from occurring when adults are being proactive for children. 'Be the End' is the ethical responsibility we all have to speak up for children."

By joining forces, both Children's Advocacy Centers hope the "Be the End" campaign will reach a larger area of Kentucky with the unified message of prevention. Supporters can contribute gifts via text and support their local Center's work by texting GIVECAC to 501501 to donate a \$10 gift.

Children's Advocacy Centers provide a multidisciplinary team approach to reports of child abuse. Routinely at the NKYCAC, law enforcement officers, social service workers and prosecutors work together to focus on the details of the abuse and investigation. The NKYCAC provides coordinated services for child abuse victims, including medical examinations, forensic interviews, family advocacy programs and therapy. Such an approach enables teams to work together and prevent further trauma in children after abuse has occurred, and begin a coordinated investigation immediately. Young victims,

their siblings, and non-offending caregivers can also receive comprehensive and on-site services to offer aid and support.

"Our goal is to move children to a place of healing quickly," said Henderson.

The NKYCAC has planted pinwheels annually since 2007 to raise awareness of child abuse in the community. The Center is recognized as a resource in Northern Kentucky, not only for intervention and advocacy, but for its work to prevent child abuse.

Supporting the NKYCAC with similar pinwheel gardens are Immanuel Methodist Church in Lakeside Park, St. Timothy Parish in Union, and Hebron Baptist Church. Chuy's restaurant in Florence is providing pinwheel-themed coloring sheets for children who dine at the restaurant in April, selling pinwheels to benefit the NKYCAC, and donating a lunch honoring investigators who work with the NKYCAC. Famous Dave's BBQ in Florence will also be sponsoring a "dine to donate" event on April 29th at its Houston Road for the Center.

"I believe that crimes against children are the most underreported," Henderson said. "Community awareness and education are critical in protecting the children in our community. Our goal is for every adult in Northern Kentucky to know the signs of child abuse, how to report and prevent child abuse," she said.

About the Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center:

The Northern Kentucky Children's Advocacy Center, a nonprofit organization, provides services to children who have been sexually abused, severely physically abused and children who have witnessed violent crimes. In addition, the NKYCAC provides supportive services for non-offending parents, caregivers, siblings, family members and professionals. Its multidisciplinary team includes social workers, law enforcement, prosecutors, therapists, advocates and health care providers. The NKYCAC is a child-focused, welcoming, and supportive environment. The NKYCAC's goals are to protect children so that they, their siblings and their non-offending caregivers can begin to heal. The Community Foundation of Northern Kentucky provides administrative and financial stewardship to the NKYCAC. As the designated regional children's advocacy center, it serves Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Owen and Pendleton counties. More information is available on our website, www.nkycac.org

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