

Press Release

March 20, 2017

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Office of the Chief Judge
Madison County Courthouse
Edwardsville, IL 62025

For Immediate Release:

KICK-OFF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and, once again, the Third Judicial Circuit Family Violence Prevention Council is partnering with Prevent Child Abuse Illinois and DCFS to hold a public forum and press conference at the Madison County Administration Building, 157 North Main Street in Edwardsville on Friday March 31st at 10:00 a.m. The groups recognize this awareness month by doing everything possible to emphasize the need to care about and actively support children and families.

The theme this year is: *Child Abuse Prevention: Everyone Has a Role to Play!*

The press conference will begin at 10:00 AM. The Honorable Judge Barbara Crowder will be present with Judge Sarah Smith and Judge Maureen Schuette. Also attending is Stacy Short, Child Protection Area Administrator with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and Captain Timothy Tyler with the Illinois State Police. The Honorable Kurt Prenzler, Madison County Board Chairman, will read the Proclamation.

On display at the press conference will be the Oasis Women's Center's Clothesline Project. In this moving display, a clothesline is hung with t-shirts that have been decorated by victims of domestic violence, many of whom are children, and their supporters. The t-shirts vividly represent their own feelings and experiences. The Madison County Child Advocacy Center will display the numbers of children involved in investigations of abuse and who have been interviewed at the Center last year, with blue and pink paper silhouettes poignantly representing each child. These displays will remain at the Administration Building for the month of April.

Many agencies will be present at the event with information on resources and support for children and their families in our community who need help. For further information, please contact Coordinator Tina Culp at 618-465-1978 or tinaculp@oasiswomenscenter.com. Additional information about Prevent Child Abuse Illinois and Child Abuse Prevention Month can be found on the website at www.preventchildabuseillinois.org.

Every person plays a part to help increase awareness and prevent abuse and neglect before it ever happens. **Please show your support by joining us on 31st March 2017!** The public and the press are urged to attend.