

## Press Release

March 27, 2018

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

*For Immediate Release:*

### **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PRESENTATION**

#### **WEAR BLUE DAY!**

The Third Judicial Circuit Family Violence Prevention Council is partnering with Prevent Child Abuse Illinois and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to hold a public forum and press conference on Friday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Madison County Administration Building in Edwardsville. Child Abuse Prevention Month has been observed each April since the first presidential proclamation in 1983. Every year, millions of Americans participate in public awareness events to celebrate childhood and raise awareness that all children deserve to grow up in happy, healthy environments. The agencies 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: *Help Great Childhoods Happen!***

The press conference will begin at 10:00 AM. Third Circuit Judge Barbara Crowder, co-Chair of the Third Circuit Family Violence Prevention Council and Secretary of the Illinois Judges Association, will be speaking along with Judge Maureen Schuette, Presiding Judge of the Family Division, and Madison County State's Attorney Tom Gibbons. Other presenters will be Janel Angell with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and Tarra Winters from Prevent Child Abuse Illinois. The Honorable Kurt Prenzler, Madison County Board Chairman, will read the Proclamation recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month

"We join with other judicial circuits and agencies around the State to emphasize the resources available in our communities to help prevent child abuse so that every child in this state can have a safe childhood," noted Judge Crowder. Madison County has hosted a kick-off event along with Prevent Child Abuse Illinois for a number of years to bring this valuable information to the public.

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 feelings and experiences. The Madison County Child Advocacy Center will also have a display of pink and blue silhouettes depicting each of the 554 children involved

in investigations of abuse who have been interviewed at the Center last year. These displays will remain at the Administration Building for the month of April.

**Friday April 6<sup>th</sup> is also Wear Blue Day! Please show your support and commitment to preventing child abuse by attending the presentations on April 6<sup>th</sup> and by wearing blue!**

Many local agencies will be present at the event with information on resources and support for children and their families in the community who need help. For further information or to be added to the agencies presenting, please contact Coordinator Tina Culp at 618-465-1978 or [tinaculp@oasiswomenscenter.com](mailto: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](http://www.preventchildabuseillinois.org).

Children are our future and their early years significantly impact their future successes. All persons have the ability to help children and families in their neighborhoods. The public and the press are urged to attend this important event.