



The Children's Action Committee
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Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is national Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Children's Action Committee of Mendocino County encourages everyone to help spread the word about the importance of children's wellbeing in our community. In 2008, pinwheels became the national symbol of child abuse prevention. The Children's Action Committee (CAC), advocates for Mendocino County's community to raise awareness and increase education.

Pinwheels are increasingly being used to help educate communities about the importance of supporting children and families. Nearly 2.3million pinwheels have been displayed nationwide. The Children's Action Committee would like to bring this great movement that is sweeping the nation to Mendocino County. The pinwheel campaign is bringing awareness and educating the communities about child abuse and neglect. During the pinwheel campaign, CAC will participate in activities and public policies that prioritize prevention from the start to make sure child abuse and neglect never occur. We want to support the idea that healthy child development serves as a foundation for both community and economic development.

(CAC) is a subcommittee of the countywide Policy Council on Children and Youth (PCCY) — a state-mandated collaborative group of agencies and community representatives working together to improve the quality of services provided to children, youth, and their families in Mendocino County. Although connected to a mandated collaborative (PCCY), CAC has grassroots representation that is strong, committed, and broad-based. So far we have the support of the Sheriff Department, Willits Police Department, Fire Departments and California Highway Patrol throughout Mendocino County for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

In honor of this special month, we are asking community members to join in child abuse prevention month, by planting a pinwheel garden. The Children's Action Committee will provide pinwheels and blue ribbon pins so you may show your support for child abuse prevention. 224 substantiated cases of child abuse have been reported in Mendocino County since February of last year. Plant a pinwheel for every case reported since February 2013. It is a reflection of hope, health, and safety. Many children in our own community face some type of child abuse and neglect every day. For more information about child abuse and neglect in our county please visit <http://www.healthymendocino.org/>.

In 2012 there were 19.4 cases of alleged abuses per 1,000 children in Mendocino County. The rate for child abuse in Mendocino County is almost twice as California child abuse rate as a whole. Please check out the following link for more information about the pinwheel campaign <http://www.pinwheelsforprevention.org/index.php>

Please contact Kary at 467-2010 or e-mail childrensaction@rcs4kids.org if you have any questions.

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