



NEWS RELEASE

J. Mark Bryant, Public Information Officer
MBryant@MCHD.org | 251.690.8823

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April is national Child Abuse Prevention Month

MOBILE, Alabama — Since 1985, April has been nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention — the Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) — has used this time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child maltreatment.

“April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children,” said Sallye Longshore, CTF executive director. “Everyone’s participation is critical.”

The pinwheel is the nationally recognized symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention. A pinwheel garden will be located at 201 Monroe Street in Montgomery, across from the RSA Tower building. The pinwheel planting ceremony is Tuesday, April 4, at 10 a.m.



The Mobile County Health Department receives grants from the CTF. All staff members are encouraged to wear blue on April 7 to mark the event. Also, blue ribbons will be provided to program participants and school staff along with prevention messaging stated during morning announcements.

“CTF funds our Family Support program at MCHD,” said Pebbles King, who oversees the Community Prevention Programs. “Family Support provides parent education and home visits for teens ages 10 to 19 who are pregnant and parenting. Parent education provides family planning information along with health education topics (such as decision making, relationships, self-esteem, goal setting).”

Ms. King said pregnant and parenting teenagers are invited to attend these voluntary classes that take place at area middle and high schools (Murphy, Blount, Leflore, Rain, Theodore, Vigor, Williamson, Hankins, and Williamson Academy) during specified blocks of the day. A Social Service Worker provides home visitation to give support and education to the teens about Medicaid and the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program. This ensures that each participant has a medical home, as well as providing referrals through community resources and partners such as Early Intervention and Head Start. Depending upon scheduling, Ms. King said approximately 18 home visits are completed each month.

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