



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**COUNTY AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS RAISE AWARENESS
ABOUT PREVALENCE OF CHILD ABUSE**
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Nationally, three million reports of child abuse and neglect are made every year. In Ohio, every ten minutes a child is abused and here in Franklin County, 8,562 cases of child abuse and neglect were reported in 2010.

Today, the Commissioners were joined in General Session by Franklin County Children's Services Assistant Director of Program Services, Tina Rutherford and Monica Gillison, Director of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund to discuss the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in our community and what the public should know about reporting suspected cases.

"We've seen communities come together to help with those affected by major calamities around the world...and that's no different here at home," said Commissioner Marilyn Brown. "Our Franklin County community always comes through to embrace abused and neglected children. Last year alone, more than 8,000 adults provided a voice and advocated for our children."

"Child abuse and neglect are preventable when parents, families, extended families, schools, neighborhoods and governmental agencies work together," said Commissioner Brooks. "Fortunately, Franklin County is such a community. Child abuse is a community problem and finding solutions depends on the involvement of a caring community."

In 2010, Franklin County Children Services served over 28,000 children and families in Franklin County.

"There are many ways to prevent child abuse in our community," said Commissioner John O'Grady. "If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, report it. If you know that a family is facing economic or other stressful situations provide them some relief by helping out with the children for awhile. And, if you know an adult who would be a great role model for a child or parent, tell them about volunteer opportunities with one of the local agencies or Children Services."

“Franklin County Children Services appreciates its partnership with the County Commissioners and The Ohio Children’s Trust Fund for the Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign. As we band together for April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, we invite everyone to continue to be advocates for the abused and neglected children of our community,” said Tina Rutherford, Assistant Director of Program Services at Franklin County Children Services.

To report child abuse in Franklin County, call the 24-hour child abuse hotline at 614-229-7000.