



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Release: April 2, 2018

## Get Involved to Prevent Child Abuse

Children and teens deserve to live safe, healthy lives. Unfortunately, that is not the case for every child and teen in Wake County. In 2017, Wake County Child Protective Services screened 8,912 reports of child abuse and neglect.

During Child Abuse Prevention Month this April, Wake County reminds residents that everyone has a role to play in preventing child abuse and neglect. In fact, many residents may already be preventing child abuse and just don't know it.

According to [Prevent Child Abuse America](#), you work to prevent child abuse when you:

- Donate goods, money or time to an organization that supports children and families;
- Volunteer to work with children through places of worship, schools, sports or academic clubs; or
- Provide mentorship to a child in your family, neighborhood or community.

Each of those activities helps to prevent child abuse by building strong, nurturing communities that support families.

If you're not sure how to take the first step, join Wake County and its community partners at one of several events to learn how you can make a difference:

**April 2, 5 p.m. – Wake County Board of Commissioners Meeting, Justice Center:** To kick off the month, residents can learn about Wake County's child abuse prevention efforts and watch the reading of the Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation.

**April 11, 11 a.m. – 4th Annual Pastries and Prevention Tea, Swinburne Building:** Network and connect with resources at this luncheon event, featuring keynote speaker Sharlene Provilus with Write Speak Inspire. RSVP by April 6 to Beverly Sanders at 919-212-7754 or [Beverly.Sanders@wakegov.com](mailto:Beverly.Sanders@wakegov.com).

**April 14, 8 a.m. – 5 Factors 5K Run, Dorothea Dix Park:** The inaugural 5 Factors 5K Walk and Run will promote child abuse prevention and awareness. Register by April 9 at [preventchildabusenc.org](http://preventchildabusenc.org).

**Pinwheel Plantings:** Throughout the month, the public is also encouraged to plant blue pinwheels. Blue pinwheels symbolize the great childhoods all children deserve and generate important conversations about investing in children and families. Dates and locations are available [online](#).

**Prevention Trainings:** Darkness and Light trainings will teach residents how to keep children safe in their communities. Dates and locations are available [online](#).

Child abuse is an important issue across the United States. With thousands of child abuse cases every year, there are still many cases that are left unreported. If you suspect a child has been abused or

neglected, call our report line at 919-212-7990 (English) or 919-212-7963 (Spanish).

For more information about child abuse prevention month visit [wakegov.com](http://wakegov.com).

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