

Media Advisory

Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Off

WHO: Families Forward Virginia
Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
Duke Storen, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services

WHAT: Donna, survivor of child abuse, now a Mother & Parent Advocate
Announce Proclamation Designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Virginia
Plant the 3500th Pinwheel in the 2018 Child Abuse Prevention Pinwheel Garden (near the Rose Garden)

WHEN: Monday, April 2, 2018, 2 to 2:45 pm (rain or shine)

WHERE: Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Ave., Richmond

WHY: More than 50,000 children in Virginia were reported to authorities for suspected child abuse or neglect in 2017, according to the Virginia Department of Social Services.

The majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable. During **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, held annually in April, we call upon all Virginians to strengthen communities by proactively supporting families so that all children can experience safe, nurturing childhoods. The **blue pinwheel** is the national symbol of child abuse prevention.

Parenting is not instinctive and all parents need help from time to time. For parenting help and support 24/7 from a trained professional, parents can call Families Forward Virginia at **1-800-CHILDREN** (800.244.5373).

Friday, April 6th is national **Wear Blue Day 2018**, a day dedicated to honor child abuse prevention efforts and to highlight the ways that Virginians can support safe, nurturing childhoods across the Commonwealth.

To report suspected abuse or neglect of a child, Virginians can call 1-800-552-7096.

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Families Forward Virginia, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is Virginia's leading organization dedicated to disrupting the cycles of child abuse, neglect and poverty. Working with Virginia parents and their children, Families Forward provides Home Visiting Programs, Family Support and Education, Professional Development, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs, Advocacy and Public Awareness Education. Employing a team of 20 professionals, Families Forward supports 50 local affiliated programs and organizations in Virginia. Families Forward is headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. Families Forward Virginia was established in 2017 with the merger of Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, CHIP of Virginia and, Early Impact Virginia. Learn more at FamiliesForwardVA.org.