



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Judge Executive Gary Moore and Appeals Court Judge Joy Moore
Co-Chair Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Boone County, KY: Boone County Judge Executive Gary Moore and his wife Appeals Court Judge Joy Moore will co-chair Family Nurturing Center's campaign for April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Northern Kentucky. Working together with other community volunteers and the staff at Family Nurturing Center, the Moores are leading a community-wide effort to not only encourage the region to understand the problems of child abuse, but to also guide Northern Kentuckians on what can be done to put an end to the cycle of child abuse.

"April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month; a time set aside to recognize our collective responsibility to prevent and confront child abuse here in Northern Kentucky," said Judge Joy Moore. "Unfortunately, our region ranks higher than state and national averages in the area of child abuse and neglect."

Child abuse affects us all, regardless of whether we know any of the five children in America who will be reported abused in just the minute it takes to read this article. Beyond the physical and emotional scars are the economic and societal burdens. Abuse affects school promotion rates, dropout rates and professional success rates. It costs the United States \$94 billion each year in foster care, incarceration, hospitalization, and other societal expenses.

According to Judge Gary Moore, activities planned for April's Blue Ribbon awareness campaign include prevention, education, and fund raising. He added, "The blue ribbon is the international sign of child abuse prevention. It was started by a grandmother in Virginia who lost her grandson to the tragedy of child abuse, the blue ribbon signifies the color of the bruises on her young grandson, and is a call to action."

Child Abuse Prevention Month Community Awareness Activities:

- **Blue Ribbon Ceremony** - The annual community kick off Blue Ribbon Ceremony will again be hosted by Tom Gill Chevrolet in Florence on April 1st, at 12:00 noon. The event, which is sponsored by Tom Gill, raises awareness of the magnitude of child abuse in our community. Concerned citizens and area leaders will be invited to tie blue ribbons onto the white fence overlooking I-75, where they will remain throughout the month of April.
- **Community Awareness** - Cities and counties throughout the region are encouraged to include announcements about National Child Abuse Prevention Month in their civic newsletters and post on web sites with an optional direct link to Family Nurturing Center, www.familynurture.org.



Boone County Kentucky

- **Children's Art Contest** – Student artists in grades 3 thru 6, can participate in the annual contest to develop a poster and slogan related to the theme: End Child Abuse. The winning poster will be featured on all TANK buses during the month of April. The winning student and their school each win a gift certificate for art supplies.
- **Blue Ribbon Pin Awareness Campaign** - Community members can purchase an enamel blue ribbon pin or car magnet at any Bank of Kentucky office location.
- **NKU's Kappa Delta Sorority Shamrock Golf Scramble** – Saturday, April 5, Flagg Springs Golf Course, California, KY. Contact 812-584-5809 to register.
- **TANK Bus Promotion** - All TANK buses will feature information on Child Abuse Prevention Month throughout the month of April including a poster featuring the winning entry of the **Children's Art Contest**.
- **School Participation** - Area schools are asked to conduct Penny Drives to support programs provided by Family Nurturing Center. In addition, students can participate in the Children's Art Contest, the school can schedule a Kids on the Block Puppet Show or a family parenting presentation to parents.
- **Faith In Action** - Local churches are invited to participate by designating a special collection to support the programs provided by Family Nurturing Center.
- **Business Participation** - Local companies and small businesses are asked to encourage their employees to wear Blue Ribbons, hold a dress down day or special fundraiser, and ask their customers to support child abuse prevention and treatment programs provided by Family Nurturing Center.

Family Nurturing Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending the cycle of child abuse by promoting individual well-being and healthy family relationships. It is a United Way partner agency and provides a variety of free services to children and families including family based parenting education, individual, family and group counseling for children impacted by sexual abuse and other violent crimes, shaken baby syndrome prevention, and the Kids on the Block puppet show teaching children to recognize, resist and report child abuse.

For additional information about National Child Abuse Prevention Month activities in Northern Kentucky visit www.familynurture.org or call 859-525-3200, ext. 30.

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