

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!!!

DATE: January 5, 2009

TO: Communities-at-Large, Community Members, Community Organizations (including, but not limited to... Schools, Libraries, Churches, Civic and Community Groups, Childcare Centers, Medical Facilities, etc)

FROM: The **Child Abuse Prevention Month Action Committee** – led by the Oklahoma State Department of Health (Family Support & Prevention Service), which include individuals and representatives from multiple programs and agencies across our state who care about children!



SUBJECT: Get Involved! Easy Activity... **“Build a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids in Your Community!”**

TAKE ACTION!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. We invite and urge every community to take action for children by simply “Building a Blue Ribbon Tree” before April 14, 2009. The blue ribbon is the international sign for child abuse prevention and serves as a constant reminder that all of us have a responsibility to help keep children safe.

Where do I participate?

Anywhere in Oklahoma

When do I participate?

Trees may be displayed during the entire month of April. However, if you want to participate in the **Tree Registry** (see next page) and have your tree featured at our Child Abuse Prevention Day at the Capitol, trees must be completed and registered via the **Tree Registry PRIOR** to April 14, 2009.

How do I participate?

Any community group or individual has the power to make a difference in the life of a child. Choose to be the difference and **“Build a Blue Ribbon Tree”** with the rest of the state.

1. Select a Tree or Construct a Tree (out of any materials you choose)
 - a. If utilizing a ‘live’ tree, choose one that has high visibility
Note: Please ask for permission if required.
 - b. If constructing a ‘unique’ tree, **creativity appreciated and encouraged.**
2. Decorate tree with Blue Ribbons (store bought or home-made)
 - a. Hang ribbons on trees to represent any of the following:
 - ⓧ The confirmed number of abused and neglected children in your county
 - ⓧ The number of new babies born in your community
 - ⓧ Or use the ribbons to show your community support for children in general
 - ⓧ Something significant to your agency, program, or community
3. Get logged in the **Tree Registry!**

Take Action Today... and Build a Blue Ribbon Community!

TREE REGISTRY

Build a Blue Ribbon Tree in Your Community

Please complete the information below to register your tree or trees for
Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Name of Group or Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Number of Blue Ribbon Trees: "Live" _____ or "Your Own Creation" _____

Location of Blue Ribbon Trees: _____

Example: Court House, Main Street, High School, Grade School, etc.

What Do Your Blue Ribbons Represent: _____

Example: # of Abused/Neglected Children in your County, # of New Babies in your Community, Blue Ribbons for support of all children, something else significant to your agency or program, etc.

Trees must be completed and registered **PRIOR** to April 14th. Please e-mail pictures of your completed trees to: SherieT@health.ok.gov

* Photos will be displayed at the State Capitol on Tuesday April 14th for Child Abuse Prevention Day at the Capitol.

Please mail, fax or e-mail completed form to:

Sherie Trice, M.S., CCPS
CBCAP Grant Coordinator
Family Support and Prevention Service
Oklahoma State Department of Health
1000 NE 10th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117-1299
Phone: 405-271-7611
Fax: 405-271-1011
SherieT@health.ok.gov



BUILD A BLUE RIBBON TREE

* If people are present in photo, signed photo releases must accompany registration. **Thank You!**