

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!!!

DATE: November 1, 2014

TO: Communities-at-Large, Community Organizations (including, but not limited to... Schools, Libraries, Churches, Civic and Community Groups, Childcare Centers, Hospitals, Medical Facilities, all groups large and small!

FROM: The Child Abuse Prevention CAP ACTION Committee – led by the Oklahoma State Department of Health (Family Support & Prevention Service), which include participants and representatives from multiple programs and agencies across this state who care about Oklahoma's children!

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



TAKE ACTION!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. For the seventh year, communities are encouraged to participate and take action for children by simply **“Building a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids”** and display the trees during the month of April. The blue ribbon is the international sign for child abuse prevention and serves as a constant reminder that all of us have responsibility in helping protect children.

Where do I participate?

Anywhere in Oklahoma

When do I participate?

It is recommended that “Ribbon-ed Trees” be on display before April begins or at any time during the month of April. We urge everyone to take advantage of getting your tree in the official Tree Registry by sending in the registration form (next page) and no more than two photographs. Tree photos received by the deadline will be featured during a dual slideshow at the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Day at the Capitol on April 14th and in the official 2015 CAP Month Scrapbook. Deadline for submission to be featured at the capitol is **Wednesday, April 8, 2015.**

How do I participate?

Any community group or individual has the power to **“Take a Turn”** making a difference for children. **“Build a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids”** 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 permission if required.
 - b. If constructing a ‘unique’ tree, **creativity appreciated and encouraged.**
2. Decorate tree with Blue Ribbons (store bought or home-made – *flagging tape works wonders*)
 - a. Hang ribbons on trees to represent any of the following:
 - ⓧ The number of new babies born in your community;
 - ⓧ Something significant to your agency, program, or community (i.e. number of families served by your program/agency);
 - ⓧ Or use the ribbons to show your community support for children in general (benefit of this selection – NO counting ribbons).
3. Get logged in the **Tree Registry** (complete form - next page)!

TREE REGISTRY

Build a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids -- In Your Community!

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

Name of Person, 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,
Neighborhood, etc.

What Do Your Blue Ribbons Represent: _____

REQUIREMENTS FOR TREE REGISTRY:

- Ⓡ No more than 2 photographs allowed w/ submission.
- Ⓡ All photos and tree registries must be sent in **together**.
- Ⓡ Deadline for submission is **Wednesday, April 8, 2015!**
- Ⓡ **All photos with people must have signed photo releases for ALL individuals.**

Examples:

- # of New Babies born in your Community,
- # of Children served by your program,
- No specific # - Blue Ribbons for general support of all children, or something else significant to your agency or program (please specify), etc.

Submission deadline to be included in the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Day at the Capitol slideshow: **Wednesday, April 8, 2015.**

* Photos will be displayed in the 2015 Child Abuse Prevention Month Scrapbook and during Child Abuse Prevention Day at the Capitol on April 14, 2015. Some photos may be shared on the 'Oklahoma Child Abuse Prevention' website and Facebook page.

Please mail, fax or e-mail completed form and tree photographs to:

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

* If people are present in photo, signed photo releases must accompany registration for each individual. www.ok.gov/health2/documents/2013release.pdf

Thank You for your participation!



BUILD A BLUE RIBBON TREE