

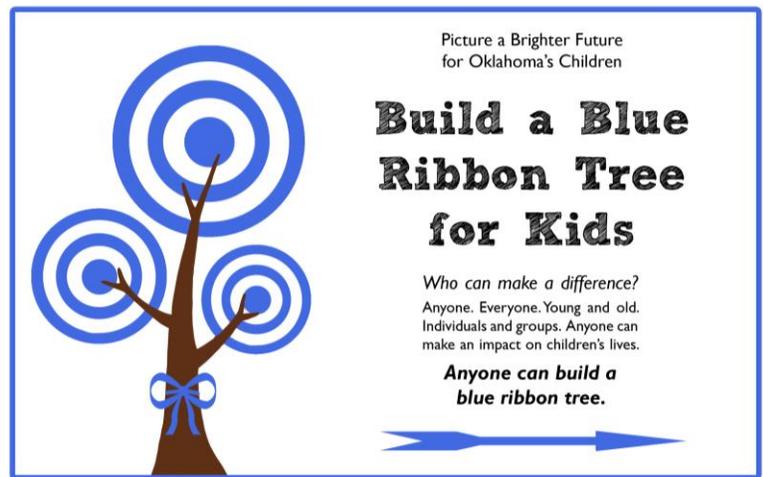
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!!!

**DATE:** January 1, 2016

**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/agencies across the state who collaborate on the promotion of child abuse prevention efforts throughout Oklahoma.

**SUBJECT:** Get Involved! Easy Activity **“Picture a Brighter Future for Oklahoma’s Children - Build a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids in Your Community!”**



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### TAKE ACTION!

**April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.** For the eighth year, communities are encouraged to participate and take action for children by simply **“Building a Blue Ribbon Tree”** then displaying 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 to 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 slideshow at the Child Abuse Prevention Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and in the official 2016 CAP Month Scrapbook. Deadline for submission to be featured at the capitol is **Wednesday, April 6, 2016.**

#### **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;
    - ⌘ The number of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in your county;
    - ⌘ 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 FORM

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

Name of Person, Group or Organization			
Postal Address		County	
Contact Person (and Affiliation to Group)		Telephone	
		Email	
<p>Location of Blue Ribbon Trees _____</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Courthouse, Main Street, Church/Faith-Based Group, Childcare Center, Library, Business, High School, Grade School, Neighborhood, etc.</p> <p>What Do <b>Your</b> Blue Ribbons Represent _____</p> <p><i>Examples</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of new babies born in your community</li> <li># of confirmed child abuse and neglect cases in your county</li> <li># of children served by your program</li> <li>↓ No specific # of ribbons ↓</li> <li>Represents general support of <u>all</u> children   Celebrates <u>all</u> Children!</li> <li>Or something else significant to your agency or program (please specify)!</li> </ul> <p>(Hint: Blue flagging tape works wonders for outside trees and is weather resistant, bright and affordable. Available at Amazon.com)</p>			

Photos will be displayed during the **2016 Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Day at the Capitol** on **Tuesday, April 12, 2016** as well as in other various media. Deadline to be included **→ Wed, April, 6, 2016**

Visit these websites for more information: <http://fsps.health.ok.gov> [www.brighterfutureforkids.com](http://www.brighterfutureforkids.com)

 **IDEA:** Consider inviting a notable community person and the media to the kickoff or unveiling of your blue ribbon tree event, and **TAKE LOTS OF PHOTOS!**

**BUILD A BLUE RIBBON TREE**  
In Your Community!