

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE!!!

DATE: November 1, 2016

TO: All Communities and Neighborhoods (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 Family Support & Prevention Service (OSDH), 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: STEP UP for Child Abuse Prevention! Easy Activity...



TAKE ACTION!

“Build a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids in Your Community!”

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. For the ninth year, communities are encouraged to step up for children – communities can get involved by simply **“Building a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids”** and 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 a 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 24th Annual Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Conference (hosted by the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect) as well as a variety of other various ways including the official 2017 CAP Month Scrapbook. Deadline for submission to be featured at the conference is **Wednesday, April 5, 2017.**

How do I participate?

Any community group or individual has the power to **“Step Up”** 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 child abuse and neglect cases 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		County	
Postal ADDRESS of Person, Group or Organization		Telephone	
CONTACT Person (Affiliation to Group)		Email	
LOCATION of Blue Ribbon Trees		Example: Courthouse, Main Street, Church/Faith-Based Group, Childcare Center, Library, Area Business, School, Neighborhood, etc.	
What do YOUR Blue Ribbons REPRESENT?		<p>The # of new babies born in YOUR community! The # of children served by YOUR program! The # of confirmed child abuse & neglect cases in YOUR county! Something significant to YOUR agency or program (please specify)! Or use the ribbons to show community support for children in general! (Benefit of this selection → no counting of ribbons)</p> <p>Circle One (or craft your own)</p>	
	Ribbons represent (more space for specific details if needed):		

IMPORTANT NOTES

Photos will be displayed in a special video slideshow during the OKCAN Conference in April, the official **2017 CAP Month Scrapbook** and possibly a variety of other ways such as Oklahoma Child Abuse Prevention social media.

- Decorate or create a tree
- Make the ribbons count
- Get Listed ~ Official Tree Registry

DEADLINE to be included → **Wed, April, 5, 2017**

CONSENT TO USE PHOTOS

Any photos/videos submitted to OSDH become the property of OSDH and may be used to promote agency programs online, in publications and on social media. Partners are required to receive permission from any persons depicted prior to submitting any materials.

CONTACT INFORMATION WHERE TO SEND PICTURES



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Hints & Ideas



- Blue flagging tape doubles as “ribbons” for outside trees; bright, affordable and weather resistant. Available at Amazon.com.
- Consider inviting notable community person and/or media to kick off or unveiling of your blue ribbon tree event, and... Take lots of photos!

BUILD A BLUE RIBBON TREE In Your Community!

Mark your calendar to join April Events & Activities, including...

CAP Day at the Capitol & CAP Awards Ceremony
 Hosted by the Family Support & Prevention Service (OSDH)
Oklahoma State Capitol Blue Room
Tuesday, April 11, 2017

24th Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Conference
 Hosted by the Center on Child Abuse & Neglect
Marriott Conference Center at NCED (Norman)
April 12-13, 2017

Visit this website for more information: <http://fspd.health.ok.gov>