



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Organizations Collaborate to Proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month Across Champaign County

Champaign County, IL — Every child deserves a safe, stable, and nurturing environment—and this April, communities across Champaign County are reaffirming that commitment.

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, an official proclamation has been issued by the mayors of the cities of Champaign and Urbana, the Village of Rantoul, and the Champaign County Executive Office. The proclamation collectively emphasizes the importance of prevention and community-wide support for children and families.

This effort is led in partnership by Crisis Nursery, Champaign County CASA, Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center, and United Way of Champaign County - organizations dedicated to supporting, advocating, and protecting children.

“Child abuse prevention is not the responsibility of one organization—it’s a responsibility we all share,” said Rachael Dallas, Director of Operations & Development at Crisis Nursery. “When families have access to resources, support, and connection, we can reduce stress, prevent crises, and ensure children grow up safe and supported.”

Community Awareness Efforts Across the County

Throughout April, community members will see visible reminders of this shared commitment across Champaign County. A joint billboard campaign will be displayed throughout the community to raise awareness and promote prevention.

In addition, blue pinwheels and blue-ribbon car magnets—national symbols of child abuse prevention—will be displayed across the county, serving as a powerful visual reminder of the happy, healthy childhoods all children deserve.

Community Call to Action

Community members are encouraged to take part in simple but meaningful actions that help prevent child abuse and neglect:

- Wear blue in recognition of **Wear Blue Day on April 10**
- Share messages of support for families and children
- Learn about local resources and how to connect families in need
- Support organizations working on the front lines of prevention

A photo opportunity with partner organizations will take place later in April to highlight the proclamation and demonstrate a unified commitment to children and families across Champaign County.

“Strong communities are built when families feel supported and children feel safe,” said Rachael Dallas, Director of Operations & Development at Crisis Nursery. “Prevention starts with each of us—showing up, reaching out, and working together.”

About the Partner Organizations

Crisis Nursery provides emergency childcare, parent support, and resources to help families in crisis and prevent abuse and neglect before it occurs.

Champaign County CASA advocates for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect, ensuring their voices are heard.

Champaign County Children’s Advocacy Center offers a coordinated, child-centered response to abuse through advocacy, intervention, and healing services.

United Way of Champaign County brings communities together to address local challenges and strengthen support systems for families.

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