



MEDIA ADVISORY

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We All Can Play a Part in Keeping Children Safe and Families Strong April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

To Strengthen Parenting and To Prevent Child Abuse has been the mission of **The Parenting Network** since our founding in 1976. We believe that every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable and nurturing environment. Every year, we support and educate over 8,000 parents, caregivers, individuals and families through community engagement, in-school programming, and in-home support.

Our programs and services provide education and services to **prevent and end the cycle of abuse**. We teach classes, provide a 24 hour hotline for support, and offer other programs throughout the year. We empower our clients to nurture children in a healthy way and learn life skills that can teach new behaviors that can stop the cycle of abuse through the lens of **trauma informed care**. We focus on research based protective factors that are present in healthy families. In addition to serving current parents and caregivers, we also provide education to the youth through teen pregnancy prevention and support to educate them about healthy relationships and other life skills to help them make good choices.

Our goal is to shift our community from a culture of treatment to a culture of prevention and protection. As stated by one of the Parent Leaders in our Parent Café Program, "I've never had a place to belong before, and now I do."

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, **The Parenting Network** encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making the **Greater Milwaukee Area** a better place for children and families. By ensuring that parents and caregivers have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by making meaningful connections with children, youth and families in our communities.

"April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children and strengthening families," said **Joyce Felker, Executive Director at The Parenting Network**. "Everyone's participation is critical. Focusing on ways to connect with families is the best thing our community can do to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect."

WHAT: April Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation
WHEN: April 9, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. Program begins at 11:15 a.m.
LOCATION: Bader Philanthropies, Inc., 3300 N Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr, Milwaukee, WI 53212
SPEAKERS: Mayor Tom Barrett
Joyce Felker, Executive Director, The Parenting Network
Reggie Moore – Director of the Milwaukee Health Department Office of Violence Prevention
The Parenting Network- Parent Representative

The following resource guide provides practical tips and information for preventing child abuse. In support of these efforts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, its Child Welfare Information Gateway, the FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention and over 30 National Prevention Partners have created *2019 Prevention Resource Guide: Keeping Children Safe and Families Strong in Supportive Communities*.

<https://childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/resource-guide/>

For more information about child abuse prevention programs and activities during the month of April and throughout the year, contact **Joyce Felker at The Parenting Network 414-671-5575 x34**

Since 1977, The Parenting Network (TPN) has served families throughout the greater Milwaukee community with its mission to strengthen families and to prevent child abuse. Child abuse is largely preventable when parents have reliable support systems and adequate resources to address challenges and crises. The primary goal for agency services is to increase the capacity of anyone in a parenting role to provide safe, healthy, nurturing environments for the children in their care. In 2003, the agency expanded its prevention activities to include youth. Educating and empowering youth to make healthy life choices is a secondary goal directly connected to our mission.

Agency services are provided:

- INDIVIDUALLY: home visiting and case management services:
 - Welcome, Baby! The Parenting Network offers individualized coaching as a part of the Welcome, Baby! series of classes.
 - Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) offers an opportunity for parents of children (ages 2-12) to have one-on-one attention from a trained parenting coach.
- IN SCHOOLS: healthy relationship education, teen pregnancy prevention, comprehensive sexual health education, and life skills education:
 - LifeSkills Education
 - Making Proud Choices + RELATE, healthy relationship education
- IN THE COMMUNITY: a confidential PARENT HELPLINE and a wide range of parenting education and support classes developed for specific parenting populations and implemented at sites throughout the county.

The Parenting Network is a well-established agency that serves a diverse population and is culturally inclusive. The staff, board and volunteer composition reflect the diversity of those we serve. With a budget of \$1,184,341 TPN provides services to more than 8,000 families.

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