



Prevent Child Abuse Athens

Positive Parenting • Stronger Families

Happy New Year 2010 from Prevent Child Abuse Athens

Preventing Child Abuse in Challenging Times

Preventing child abuse means understanding conditions that leave children vulnerable to harm, and then taking the action necessary to improve these conditions. History shows that in times of economic distress, the rate of child abuse increases. For this reason, it is important to reach out to parents and caregivers during these challenging times to offer support and reduce isolation and stress.

The risk of child abuse (including

neglect, physical, emotional, and sexual) increases with the presence of stressors in the home. These stressors can vary from financial distress, mental or physical health problems, lack of knowledge about parenting or child development, and the everyday demands of raising a family. The more stressors present in the family's life, the more vulnerable that family is to child abuse. Research tells us that supporting families during times of stress reduces the incidence of child abuse.

PCA Georgia's Helpline
1-800-CHILDREN (244-5373) is available for just this type of support.

There are also other resources available to communities to help insure the safety and well-being of children. Prevent Child Abuse Athens offers family support programs and can be reached at **706-546-9713**. Perhaps the most important form of support comes from someone the family knows and trusts. **That is why preventing child abuse is the work of everyone, every day.**



Spotlight on our Volunteers

PCAA wishes to thank the following volunteers for sharing their time and talent with our families.

Susane Banissi, Mallori Berry, Sarah Bourke, Megan Bryer, Amanda Burnett, Miranda Caheely, Stephanie Cowan, Carolyn Dees, Carol Hill, Janice Himmelsbach, Lorien Marsingill, Janet Martin, Jennifer Piper, Laura Ryan, Chloe Spicer, Jeri Stephens, Mandi Strickland, Mallory Tribble, Leslie Tyree

2009 PCAA Services

First Steps New Parent Support Program - 693 families
99% would recommend First Steps to a friend
97% found the hospital visit helpful

Healthy Families Home Visiting Program - 185 families
70 teen parents

Only 1 teen had a repeat pregnancy in 2009
96% of children were linked to a medical home

Parent Education Classes - 85 families
8 different series were conducted at 4 different sites
Madison County Class held in 2009

Weekly classes for fathers with court involvement

Community Education - 3012 individuals at various sites

1st annual Cybersafety Symposium

Save the date-Upcoming PCAA Events

19th Annual Starry, Starry Night

March 20, 2010
Athens Country Club

This is a wonderful dinner and silent and live auction. All proceeds support services to prevent child abuse. See website for ticket information, pcaathens.org.

Prevent Child Abuse Walk

April 17, 2010 10 a.m.
St. Mary's Hospital

We will be selling raffle tickets to a beautiful pinwheel quilt by the Cotton Patch Quilt Group. See our website for walk registration and raffle information, pcaathens.org.

Help Us Help Kids

By signing up for our email newsletter, you not only save trees, you help us save on postage and office supplies so that we may serve more families!

Please send a brief email to mhood@pcaathens.org, subject **Newsletter**, and we will be sure to put you on our mailing list.



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Thanks to our holiday helpers!

UGA Law Students

Melinda Wyatt, Lesly Gallagher, and Whitney Triplett of UGA Survey Research Center

The Berger family

Thanks to everyone who helped our families over the holiday season

Thanks to Our Supporters

Turner Family Foundation, Georgia Health Foundation, Athens Area Community Foundation, GA Power, Jackson EMC, 1st Presbyterian Church

A complete list of donors will be included with our summer newsletter.



PCAA receives \$3000 from Jackson EMC Foundation.