



Prevent Child Abuse Athens

Positive Parenting • Stronger Families

SPRING 2008

Prevent Child Abuse



March 29, 2008

Walk



APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Prevent Child Abuse Athens actively promotes community awareness of child abuse and its prevention. We kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month with the “Prevent Child Abuse Walk”, co-sponsored with St. Mary’s Health Care System and Baxter area merchants. Over 300 people purchased Walk t-shirts, and 125 people joined the Walk.

The Walk featured “Pinwheels for Prevention”, a display of 1,440 children’s pinwheels representing the number of children - - each an opportunity for prevention - - served by Prevent Child Abuse Athens in 2007. The pinwheel is a symbol of happy, healthy children who are safe in their homes and communities.

A “Positive Parenting ... Stronger Families” parenting class was attended by over 50 parents and children on April 5. Thanks to Athens Parent Magazine for their co-sponsorship, First Presbyterian Church for their space, and Papa John’s for providing lunch.

Beginning this month, area churches are including an insert about PCAA and child abuse prevention in their bulletins.

How can you help prevent child abuse?

- Reach out to a friend, neighbor or relative struggling with parenting.
- Volunteer to support new parents through programs such as First Steps.
- Trust your instincts when concerned about an adult’s behavior toward children.
- Arrange for your civic or church group to distribute information about child abuse prevention and/or contribute items needed by PCAA. See Wish List on p. 4
- Make a monetary donation to PCAA.

**PCAA
OFFICERS**

President
Grant Tribble

President-Elect
Thomas F. Hollingsworth III

Secretary
Rebecca L. Hartman

Treasurer
Dr. Richard W. Waters

BOARD MEMBERS

Pam Barker
Linda A. Bigelow, Ph.D.
Lynn Brown
Amy A. Cowser
Peter A. Dugas
Mark W. Dyleski
Denise H. Horton
Ralph F. Johnson
Donna Murphy
Pat Nielsen
Amy H. Parrish
Scott Reynolds
Sean Rogers
Kathy Rojek
Lori Scott
Lacy C. Sinkwich

Staff:

Paula Shilton, Executive Director
Mary Hood, Program Director
Tiara Smith, Clinical Supervisor
Savannah Ferster, Family Assessment Worker
LaTroyce Turner, Sr. Family Support Worker
Wanda Whitehead, Sr. Family Support Worker
Julie Cano, Family Support Worker
Lori Dionne, Family Support Worker
Jennifer Henderson, Family Support Worker
Monica Ruiz, Family Support Worker
Pat Berger, First Steps Coordinator
Irma Cadle, First Steps Associate
Grace Arthur, Parenting Educator
Cheryl Aaron, Bookkeeper/Admin. Asst

Starry Starry Night
Raises \$53,000 for PCAA

The Seventeenth Annual Starry Starry Night was held on March 1 at the Athens Country Club, featuring Live and Silent Auctions, the Wheel of Fortune, dinner and entertainment. Many thanks to our generous sponsors, auction item donors, attendees, and the Committee who made it such a success (see our website for details.)



Gilbert Milner auctioning Starry Starry Night painting with help from PCAA interns Natalie Etter and Jessica Dunwiddie



Lori Scott & Lacy Sinkwich, Starry Starry Night Co-chairs



Thomas (PCAA President Elect) & Lisa Hollingsworth, Doug (State Representative) & Mary McKillip

Thanks again to the Sponsors of the
Prevent Child Abuse Walk

Prevent Child Abuse Athens
St. Mary's Health Care System
Alps Shoe Repair
Amie Stasiak/Alps Barber Shop
Athens Art Group
Athens Banner-Herald
Plato's Closet
Turner & Patat
Always Always Flowers
Athens Diagnostic Center
Athens Printing Company
Clarke County Lock & Key

Clean Home Vacuums
Ebenezer Baptist Church West
Elephant Trunk
Georgia Cycle Sport
Hodge Design & Remodeling
Perno's Formal Wear
Professional Cleaners
UGA CFD Association
Uniforms 911
... and volunteers from
Campus View Church of Christ,
Clarke Central High School,
and Ebenezer Baptist Church West

Why Do We Need Child Abuse Prevention Programs?

Neglect or Abuse Affects 1 in 50 Babies

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (March, 2008) has discovered that about 1 in 50 infants in the United States has been neglected or abused, with almost a third of the victims in their first week of life when maltreated. Information from a national database of child protective services cases revealed that the majority of the newborn cases were neglect rather than abuse. Common forms of neglect included abandonment or failure to get medical care for a baby, and neglect was often linked with a parent's drug abuse.

Child Abuse and Neglect Costs Our Nation \$104 Billion

A study released in January, 2008 by Prevent Child Abuse America and the Pew Charitable Trusts calculated the economic impact of child abuse and neglect at \$104 billion in 2007. This staggering amount includes \$33 billion in direct costs for foster care services, hospitalization, mental health treatment and law enforcement. It also includes over \$70 billion in indirect costs - - chronic health problems, loss of productivity, special education, and criminal justice services.

Women Who Suffered Child Abuse Spend More on Health Care

Researchers at Ohio State University have found that middle-aged women who were physically or sexually abused as children spend up to one-third more than average on health care. This study, published in the March, 2008 Journal of General Internal Medicine, showed that even decades after the abuse ended, there was higher use of mental health, outpatient, ER, specialist and pharmacy services.



Jackson EMC Foundation board member Johnny Fowler presents a \$5,000 grant check to PCAA Executive Director Paula Shilton. Funds will be used for the Healthy Families Program that provides intensive in-home visits to at-risk parents of newborns.

What's Up with PCAA Programs?

Parenting Classes

The next series of classes will begin on May 6, 2008, and continue Tuesday nights, 6:00-8:00 pm for 15 weeks. The classes are held at Campus View Church of Christ, and are free of charge. Pizza and snacks will be provided. There is a children's program for school age children, and childcare for younger children. Research indicates that longer-term parenting series result in more change in actual parenting practices. Pre-registration is required. Contact Grace Arthur at 706-548-3216.

First Steps

Would you like to help new parents take their "First Steps" with their newborn? Volunteers are needed to offer support, education materials, and links to community resources for new parents. Training will be held on Saturday, May 17, 9:00-3:00. Contact Pat Berger at 706-548-3216.

Healthy Families

Intensive home visiting services are being provided to 114 at-risk families. In addition to teaching parenting strategies, Family Support Workers also encourage families to participate in group activities, such as Library Play Days and Healthy Cooking Classes. While these events promote practical skills, they also help reduce social isolation, one of the many causes of child abuse and neglect.

Community Education

Do you have the perfect spot to display our 3 X 10 ft. all-weather banner for a few weeks? The banner has a cute photo of kids, our name, the phrase "Children can't prevent abuse ... but you can" and the 1-800-CHILDREN statewide helpline number.



Prevent Child Abuse Athens

Positive Parenting • Stronger Families

1551 Jennings Mill Road
Suite 700A
Bogart, GA 30622

Phone: 706-546-9713
Fax: 706-546-9720
Website: www.pcaathens.org
Email: preventabuse@pcaathens.org

*A CHARTERED COUNCIL OF
PREVENT CHILD ABUSE
GEORGIA*

**MISSION: To Prevent
Child Abuse and
Neglect In All Its Forms**

NON PROFIT
PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ATHENS, GA
PERMIT # 21

Major Donors

Children's Trust Fund of Georgia
Georgia Department of Human
Resources (Promoting Safe and
Stable Families)
United Way of NE Georgia
March of Dimes
Children and Youth Coordinating
Council
Athens-Clarke County Human and
Economic Development
Kappa Delta Sorority
Athens Regional Medical Center
Jackson EMC Round-up
Walton EMC Round-up
Family Nurturing Center
Publix Super Markets Charities
Turner Family Foundation
Target Stores

Wish List Spring 2008

*Can you contribute any of these
items to be used in our programs?*

craft sticks
glue sticks
construction paper
yarn
tube socks
diapers (up to size 5)
wipes
onesies
pacifiers
teething rings
brown paper lunch bags
large paper bags
crayons
coloring books
developmental toys (through age 4)
bibs
sippy cups