*APRIL 2015*

*National Child Abuse Prevention Month*

April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children. Everyone’s participation is critical. Focusing on ways to build and promote the protective factors, in every interaction with children and families, is the best thing our community can do to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development.

Childrenz Haven is the Polk County Child Advocacy Center. We provide advocacy and therapy to children and caregivers involved in child abuse related cases. Childrenz Haven also provides education to community members on reporting and preventing child abuse and neglect. We have trained facilitators on staff and volunteers prepared to educate all Polk County child-serving businesses (schools, daycares, churches, etc.) interested in participating in the National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**What Program Fits Your Needs?**

1. **Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children** (2-3 hour presentation)

An evidence-informed prevention solution that shows organization administrators, staff, and volunteers how to implement effective prevention policies, recognize the signs of sexual abuse in children, and react responsibly if abuse occurs. www.D2L.org

1. **Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse** (1.5 hour presentation)

A training designed for all staff and volunteers who work with children in a school, day care, church, medical, camp, or extracurricular environment to recognize and report child abuse. The course was initiated by interviewing (on camera and off) numerous experts in the fields of law enforcement, prosecution, therapy, medicine and children's advocacy centers. Once the draft course was developed, it was fine-tuned with experts in the child abuse field from a variety of disciplines, including Child Protective Services, the Texas Municipal Police Association, the Texas Education Agency, Children’s Advocacy Centers of Texas, Travis County District Attorney’s Office, and the Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. www.trainingcenter.net

1. **Keeping Your Children Safe in the Real and Virtual World** (1.5 hour presentation)

A training designed to help parents and interested community members understand the realities of child abuse, empower them to talk with children about personal safety, and minimize potential for abuse. www.trainingcenter.net

1. **You Are Not Alone** (30-45 min. presentation)

Designed for Children ages 8-14. This program teaches them the basics of personal safety in both the real and virtual world. **You Are Not Alone** uses illustrations to demonstrate the basics of personal safety in both the real and virtual world including what constitutes a safe home, how to identify an inappropriate touch, who children can talk to if something happens to them or someone they care about, and the dangers of sharing personal information online through social media or cell phones. www.trainingcenter.net

1. **Sunflower House: P.S. Happy Bear** (30 min. presentation)

Happy Bear and staff visit children with an interactive play that introduces the basics of recognizing, resisting, and reporting. The curriculum activities build upon these concepts and include: identifying welcome & unwelcome touches, identifying private parts, recognizing personal space, and identifying people to tell. www.sunflowerhouse.org

We have additional presentations created by our staff that include our local law enforcement, district attorney’s office, and child protective services professionals. In an attempt to reach as many members of the community in April as we can, we would like to present any or all of our programs at your schools, churches, or wherever is most convenient for you. Let us know what program fits your needs.