



**For More Information:**

Ounce of Prevention – Prevent Child Abuse Florida

[www.ounce.org](http://www.ounce.org)

Partnership for Strong Families

[www.pfsf.org](http://www.pfsf.org)

[www.redesignfostercare.org](http://www.redesignfostercare.org)

[www.pfsf.org/capmonth/index.html](http://www.pfsf.org/capmonth/index.html)

Department of Children and Families

[http://www.state.fl.us/cf\\_web/](http://www.state.fl.us/cf_web/)

UF Child Abuse Prevention Project

<https://capp.peds.ufl.edu/>

**April 2009 – Child Abuse Prevention Month**

- National effort for the last twenty years
- Here in Florida, Prevent Child Abuse Florida of the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, participates in a national campaign to draw attention to the way communities can prevent child abuse with the Winds of Change Campaign
- Governor Crist issued a proclamation that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
- The Winds of Change campaign promotes involvement in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through a better understanding of child development, improved parenting and community action. The goal is to build on efforts in our communities that foster healthy child growth and development and to learn more about how communities can shape children’s lives so they can grow in safe, stable and nurturing environments. Go to: [www.ounce.org/cappacket.html](http://www.ounce.org/cappacket.html)

**Why the Winds of Change?**

This year’s Winds of Change campaign theme, “It’s Your Turn,” is a call to individual and community action:

- Children should be a priority in all communities and neighborhoods.
- Whether a neighbor, teacher, police officer, librarian, mentor, coach or family member, everyone plays a role in providing healthy developmental opportunities for children.
- The Campaign name supports efforts being made to focus on helping all families do well so children are healthy, safe and ready to succeed.
- Healthy child experiences are not just good for children but for our community to increase school success, drive down crime and keep families stable.
- The quality of life for families in our communities has a direct impact on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- Situations families face can lead to maltreatment of children – unemployment, economic stresses, poor health care, a parent struggling with an alcohol or drug problem, domestic violence, poor choices for child care, etc.

- We help by providing all children with safe, nurturing experiences with their families and fostering healthy family activities in our communities.
- As part of the Winds of Change campaign, DCF is distributing parenting guides featuring the Berenstain Bears, and a series of public service announcements are being broadcast on radio and television. The printed materials and broadcast announcements encourage Floridians to call the Parent Helpline at 1-800-FLA-LOVE for information on raising the leaders of tomorrow. The Helpline is available 24/7, and calls are free and confidential. All campaign materials are available for free at [www.ounce.org/cappacket.html](http://www.ounce.org/cappacket.html)
- In these difficult economic times, it is important that our community continue to support programs that support and foster family success.

### **What are we doing locally?**

Services to Help Families: The Department of Children and Families and its community-based partner, Partnership for Strong Families, has provided services to adults and children to keep children safe in their homes. Because these services are available to assist families, the number of children removed from their parents has dropped 42% in the last year in Circuit 3. The statewide goal is to safely reduce the number of children who are removed from their caregivers by providing the families fast help to resolve problems.

Programs aimed at preventing child maltreatment from ever happening in the first place give parents the tools to raise children who are healthy, safe and nurtured: Healthy Families Programs, UF Child Abuse Prevention Project Nurturing Program, Devereux, Resolutions Health Alliance, Partnership for Strong Families, Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway, Guardian ad Litem, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, CDS Family and Behavioral Health Services, Child Advocacy Center, Child Protection Team, Children's Home Society, Healthy Start, etc.

### **Look for Pinwheel Gardens Around the Community**

- Partnership for Strong Families, 1389 West US 90, Suite 100, Lake City
- Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway, 1104 SW Main Blvd. Lake City,
- Guardian ad Litem, 406 NE Lake Desoto Circle, Lake City

### **Child Abuse in Florida and Circuit 3 - Report child maltreatment 1-800-962-2873**

- Total Estimated Child Population – Circuit 3: 41,212 children
- Circuit includes: Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties
- Number of Child Victims of Maltreatment in FY 07-08:

Florida -	120,034	Circuit 3	1,541
Columbia	698	Dixie	102
Hamilton	92	Lafayette	19
Madison	141	Suwannee	331
Taylor	158		