

**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FMI 325-653-4673



**April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

As proclaimed by the Tom Green County's Commissioners, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Tom Green County and across the nation. The mission of Children's Advocacy Center of Greater West Texas Inc. (CAC) is to ensure that every child in our community has a safe and nurturing home. CAC alongside other programs across the nation, will be raising awareness for child abuse prevention. Child abuse is a devastating problem that impacts children from all walks of life however there is hope, since child abuse is completely preventable.

Child abuse prevention is a community responsibility and CAC has activities planned for the month of April to engage the community to stand up to child abuse. Join the movement against child abuse and help CAC end the cycle of abuse.

- **Pinwheel Ceremony** – Festivities kick off on Wednesday April 1, 2020 at 12:00pm on the Tom Green County Courthouse lawn with the annual Pinwheel Ceremony. On the big day, wear blue and up for the children that have suffered abuse and neglect in the Concho Valley. After a group photograph on the Court House steps, speakers will share a message of hope and inspiring words about child abuse prevention.
- **"Go Blue Friday"** - Every Friday during April, show your support by wearing blue! Blue is the national color for child abuse prevention. Email pictures of you, your family, or your office "going blue" to [rthomas@cacgreaterwtx.org](mailto:rthomas@cacgreaterwtx.org) for your chance to be featured on social media. We can't wait to see you in your best blue attire.
- **Cookie Friday at Halfmann's Cake Cottage** –Fridays in April just got sweeter! Wear blue and stop by Halfmann's Cake Cottage for a FREE cookie to support Child Abuse Prevention Month (FREE for the first 50 customers wearing blue).
- **Picnic in the Park** – This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic In The Park Celebration. Join CAC alongside tons of community partners on Sunday, April 19, 2020 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Kirby Park. This is a FREE event sponsored by CAC, Pediatric Dentistry of San Angelo, St. Mary's Knights of Columbus #13514, and the Child & Family Well-being Initiative to promote healthy and nurturing families with games, music, food, and fun. Mark your calendars for this special event!
- **R & R Training** – Child abuse prevention is everyone's responsibility, so CAC wants to ensure you are equipped with the necessary tools to help a child in need. Reserve your seat for the free Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse Training on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. The training is from 6:00 to 7:30pm and dinner will be provided. Contact Melody at 653-HOPE (4673) or [mjeter@cacgreaterwtx.org](mailto:mjeter@cacgreaterwtx.org) to RSVP or for more information.

- **Blue Sunday**– Sunday, April 26, 2020 is Blue Sunday. Join churches across the nation to pray and spread awareness for the prevention of child abuse. Opportunities for donating to the cause to end child abuse will be available at local congregations on that day.
- **Become a CASA Volunteer**- Are you passionate about children and looking for a meaningful avenue to donate your time? Become a CASA Volunteer and help change a child's story by volunteering and advocating for a child in need. To find out more about becoming a CASA, contact Rebekah at 325-653- HOPE (4673) or [rbeltran@cacreaterwtx.org](mailto:rbeltran@cacreaterwtx.org).

Awareness and education are paramount to preventing child abuse. If you suspect abuse, call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400 or call 911 if you believe the child is in immediate danger.

ALL MEDIA INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND ALL EVENTS

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