

Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect



Protecting Children – the Responsibility of Our Entire Community

Primarily prevention CPCAN's main directive covers a broad range of services, such as public awareness and community education, parent education and prevention programs and community activities and advocacy.

Although primary prevention is difficult to measure we know it has an impact on child safety. Reports of child abuse and neglect have increased in this difficult economic climate as families struggle to maintain their housing, pay for utilities, groceries and other household necessities. Poverty is the number one risk factor contributing to child abuse and neglect.

CPCAN staff and volunteers make a variety of presentations in our community on an ongoing basis to promote education and awareness. Some of the presentations made recently and coming soon include:

- CPCAN sponsored a training in May presented by Dr. Bethany Mohr and Dr. Lisa Markman from UM Child Protection Team educating professionals about the medical aspects of child sexual abuse
- CPCAN parent education teacher Judy Szink offered parenting tips to moms at Northeast Elementary's "Muffins for Moms" and will introduce our parenting classes to expectant parents at Partnership Park's Community Baby Shower this summer
- CPCAN advocate Lieutenant Wayne Bisard will present internet safety at the Kids' Fest
- CPCAN volunteer Michele Bowersox and board member Erika Bigelow will present Mandated Reporter Trainings to Jackson Community College students this fall and winter
- CPCAN director Wendy Gonzalez addresses service groups, local agencies and community members throughout the year

If you have an idea about a CPCAN presentation you would like to hear or a place where our staff or volunteers can present please contact Wendy at 517-788-4239 .

CPCAN's Mission Statement Updated

Members of CPCAN's board held a strategic planning meeting on March 12, 2011 where our mission statement, *"to strengthen families to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect"* was revised: ***"to educate and strengthen our community to reduce child abuse and neglect."*** At our Annual Meeting on April 28, 2011 the board of directors officially adopted our new mission statement. Our new mission statement is powerful and inclusive: it takes an entire community to end child abuse and neglect and one of the strongest protective factors to prevent child abuse is community education.



Parenting Classes Promote Protective Factors

CPCAN's free parenting classes are now in the third of four series of six session classes funded through the Great Parents, Great Start grant and will run until August 8. Classes are held on Monday nights from 6-7:15 p.m. and have had a solid attendance made easier for attending families as CPCAN has been able to offer free childcare – thanks to our terrific volunteers and free pizza and pop – generously donated from Little Caesars on Wildwood – a true partner in prevention. Parents learn important topics

focusing on *Emotions, Stress, Testing, Attachment, Tantrums and Reading*.

Every class a parent attends:

- Increases their knowledge and understanding of how children develop and what they can expect at each stage of development
- Enhances bonding and communication between parents and their children
- Increases parental skills in coping with the stresses of caring for children

Parent education is designed to strengthen and support families and communities to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Volunteers

We are always in need of volunteers to help in our mission to end child abuse and neglect. Consider donating your talents and time to assist CPCAN in a multitude of ways. Skills in marketing, research, community outreach, childcare, fundraising, building and lawn maintenance, etc. are always needed and appreciated. Contact CPCAN volunteer coordinator Jamie Horning at: 517-788-4239 ext. 11.



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Check out CPCAN's website at: <http://www.cpcan-net.doodlekit.com/home>

We're also Facebook and Twitter!