



## **Community Action Program of Lancaster County**

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### **Pinwheels and Proclamations Trumpet Arrival of Child Abuse Awareness Month**

(Lancaster, PA) – April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Lancaster County Commissioners will begin the month-long awareness effort by issuing a proclamation. The proclamation will be read at the Commissioner’s meeting scheduled for Wednesday April 13 at 9:15 a.m. followed by a special program in Binns Park.

The program will include approximately 70 students from Fulton Elementary School, the Step Team from Burrowes Elementary School and a magic clown who will provide entertainment. Representatives from the City of Lancaster, the School District of Lancaster, the Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Service Agency and the Family Center of the Community Action Program of Lancaster County, will join for the reading of the Commissioners’ proclamation and announce the winners of a pinwheel-coloring contest. The students will then plant blue pinwheels around the park to symbolize child abuse and neglect prevention.

The blue pinwheel has become the national symbol for prevention of child abuse and neglect. Reed Reynolds, program manager with the Family Center, believes the pinwheel symbolizes a change in the way we think about prevention through community activities and development of public policy that make prevention a bigger priority. Reynolds says, “Every child deserves to live in a nurturing and loving environment. Despite the fact we are focusing on this one day, child abuse prevention should be on the minds of community groups, educators, faith based organizations, lawmakers, the medical community, childcare providers and others throughout

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the year. It will take a multi-disciplined, collaborative community approach to resolve this issue going forward.

Hopefully, the pinwheel will remind us of this responsibility everyday of the year.”

According to figures released by the Lancaster County Children and Youth Agency, the agency investigated 867 cases of suspected child abuse in 2010. The cases broke down to include: 505 physical abuse reports, 290 sexual abuse reports, 24 imminent risk reports, 23 regional reports, 19 medical neglect reports, and 6 emotional abuse reports.

The Family Center works to strengthen the quality of life within the family unit by administering programs designed to reduce child abuse, strengthen and develop parental skills and help families reach self-sufficiency.

The Family Center is one of 36 programs administered by CAP of Lancaster County, which community leaders formed in 1966 to assist low and moderate-income individuals with the resources, skills and knowledge needed to become self-sufficient. CAP of Lancaster County has a budget of over \$46 million and employs 325 people who provide services to qualified individuals throughout Lancaster County.