



## About the Campaign

*Stand for Children - Pinwheels for Prevention* is a grassroots campaign to educate the public about the role we can all play in building strong families. We all recognize that children are our future and most of us recognize that child abuse and neglect is a serious problem. However, many people do not know what it means to stop child abuse before it occurs, or what they can do to prevent it. That is what this campaign is all about. It is now the time to recognize that raising safe and healthy children is the cornerstone of a sound community and prosperous society.

Recent scientific findings confirm the importance of the early years of childhood. Simply put, the basic architecture of the brain is constructed through an ongoing process that begins at birth and continues to adulthood. A child's early experiences can have impacts that are felt for a lifetime. Stress such as child abuse damages the young brain resulting in problems that will carry into adulthood. Each year, Maryland's spends \$2 billion treating the effects of child abuse. Prevention is a better answer.

During April, Child Abuse Prevention Month, thousands of Pinwheels will be distributed in Maryland. These Pinwheels are a call to action. A time to recognize that childhood should be a breeze for all children, free of abuse of any kind. This is a time to educate ourselves, neighbors and colleagues about critical issues affecting children. It is time to mobilize and pledge to do our part to ensure Maryland's children grow up healthy and strong.

Toolkits are available along with suggestions on how different groups in our community can get involved. They include:

- Schools, Youth Groups, Scout Troops, or Faith Communities.
- College and University Campuses
- Organizations & Communities
- Companies & Local Businesses

Visit [www.standforchildrenmd.org](http://www.standforchildrenmd.org) for more information or contact The Family Tree at 410-889-2300, [development@familytreemd.org](mailto:development@familytreemd.org).

Join us and make a difference!

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