Turn the Town Blue
April is Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Prevention Month

For those of us that work in Human Services, every hour, every day, every week and every month is child abuse and neglect prevention month. All of our mission statements might not directly mention CAN, but a link can be made to one of the five protective factors that strengthen families and keep them resilient.

For example, the Division of Health provides a wide array of resources to help families remain healthy. Our PSN nurse shares information with service coordinators, goes on home visits, brings resources to Parent Talk Lunch and is available to answer questions. One of the protective factors is knowledge of child development. Therefore, being knowledgeable about raising healthy children helps parents to be resilient to child abuse and neglect.

The Division of Children and Family Services contracts with a variety of agencies in the community that bring parenting classes, parents mentors, youth outreach and Prevention Services Network resources to parents in need. All of these resources support the development of resilient parents able to work through hardships and keep their children safe. Parent resiliency is another protective factor.

The Division of Workforce Development coordinates the delivery of food share, medical, and W2 cash assistance to families. The Division contracts to run the workshops that support these efforts. We know that families must feed their children and keep a roof over their heads in order to parent effectively. Concrete supports, such as those just mentioned, are still another protective factor.

The Division of Workforce Development also contracts with Goodwill Industries to provide child care on site at A Child’s Place. The teachers there are trained in the Pyramid Model of Social Emotional Development and share what they learn with the parents of the children in their care. They also present information on a regular basis at Parent Talk Lunch. Knowing how to raise children that are socially and emotionally competent is yet another protective factor.

As you can see, we are interwoven into a system of support that is comprehensive and complex. We depend on each other to meet the needs of the families we serve. Our families are usually receiving services from more than one of our systems simultaneously, and we develop relationships with other staff to share information and ease the navigation of our respective bureaucracies. It is a landscape of constant change continuously adjusting to staff comings and goings and multiple program requirements.

As we raise awareness of issues surrounding the prevention of child abuse and neglect it is critical to recognize and appreciate the effort shown to protect children and keep them safe by the staff that work with parents on a daily basis. It is equally important to recognize and appreciate all the unnamed people who comprise the support systems needed by every family to be successful members of our community. In April we both raise awareness and celebrate children. Please read the information included to find out about the many opportunities you have this month to do both!
During Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month  
Safe Kids Kenosha-Racine reminds parents that supervision is the best prevention

Spring is officially here, and a trip to the playground is often a go-to activity that both parents and kids enjoy. While the risks and dangers associated with swimming or riding a bike might seem more obvious, Safe Kids Kenosha- Racine reminds parents to not let their guard down when their kids are playing on the playground. Active supervision and certain safety precautions are necessary to ensure their kids remain healthy and safe.

Each year, approximately 15 children die from injuries involving playground equipment, and more than 200,000 are treated in emergency rooms. Falls account for 80 percent of playground injuries; however, most playground fatalities are caused by strangulation and tend to occur on home playgrounds, not on public property.

Grass and soil are not good playground surfaces. The ground should be covered 12 inches deep with energy-absorbing materials like shredded rubber, wood chips or sand, extending at least six feet in all directions around the equipment. It won’t prevent falls, but it can prevent injuries or reduce their severity.

Parents and caregivers need to keep kids in sight and in reach on the playground. Simply being in the same place as your child isn’t necessarily supervising. Kids on a playground need your undivided attention.

Safe Kids Kenosha-Racine also reminds parents and caregivers to:

- Make sure playground equipment is inspected frequently and kept in good repair.
- Remove hood and neck drawstrings from children’s clothing and outerwear and don’t let kids wear helmets, necklaces, purses or scarves on the playground.
- Don’t allow your kids to engage in, or play near, any pushing, shoving or crowding around playground equipment.
- Keep toddlers under age 5 in a separate play area, away from equipment designed for bigger kids.
- Report any playground safety hazards to the organization responsible for the site (e.g., school, park authority, city council).

It has been a long and hard winter so we have earned some sun. Enjoy spring! Enjoy the play time with your children! For more information, call Safe Kids Kenosha-Racine at 687-3366
Children who are not socially and emotionally competent are at higher risk of child maltreatment. Teaching children social and emotional skills will help children handle their emotions and form and maintain friendships and other relationships. With these skills, your child can cooperate with others, share toys, consider the feelings of others, and handle conflicts. Since children are still learning these skills, they show a wide range of positive and negative social and emotional skills. Children who are not practicing positive social and emotional skills at home or at school may:

- Be disruptive;
- Disobey instructions;
- Have difficulty managing their emotions;
- Have difficulty engaging in positive peer interactions; and
- Have difficulty communicating appropriately.

Observing Your Child
If you have concerns about your child’s social and emotional skills, take time to learn how they understand the world. Engage with them through play. Have fun and observe.
Observe your child at play—at home with family members; in the neighborhood, such as at a neighbor’s or at a community park; and at school (and request the teacher’s observations). How your child functions in diverse environments, including the way in which he or she chooses to interact with peers and with adults, will tell you a lot about his or her social and emotional skills.
Have some playtime with your child on a regular basis. It doesn’t have to be a scheduled time, a specific activity, or an activity long in duration. Just allow some time to play with your child with what interests him or her. For example, you can engage in:

- **Free play**, which provides the opportunity to talk and share through the use of cars, trucks, puppets, dolls, trains, etc.;
- **Games**, which allow numerous opportunities to talk, take turns, cooperate, share, handle challenges and conflicts, and negotiate with others.

Remember that free play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination and dexterity as well as physical, cognitive, and emotional strengths. It’s through free play that children create and explore a world they can master, conquering their own fears while practicing adult roles. Studies have shown that, through free play, children can develop new abilities that lead to enhanced confidence and the resiliency that they will need to face future challenges.
If, after observing your child over time, you are still concerned, act early. Talk to your child’s caregiver or teacher to determine if they have similar concerns, or if the behavior is developmentally normal. If needed, talk to your pediatrician. Get the right support for your child to grow into an emotionally and socially healthy teen and adult.
(This article comes from the monthly newsletter from the Children’s Trust Fund, called, “Parenting our Children.”)

---

**Community Response Corner**

*Each month we will highlight what’s new, or one of the components of the Community Response Program of PSN.*

Staff from the PSN Family Resource Center recently attended a training on Parent Involvement and Parent Leadership. The PSN Family Resource Center is looking for parents who would be interested in participating on a Parent Advisory Committee. This committee would assist in recruiting other parents to programs, assist in reviewing and editing program materials like brochures and flyers, and provide suggestions about how to improve and enhance PSN Family Resource Center programs and services. **If you are a parent who has participated in our programs, and you are interested in joining our Parent Advisory Committee, please call Nancy Morey at 697-4584.**
Looking for a way to spend quality time with your family?

Come for a free Family Dinner & Play “Café Talk”

- Have dinner with your family
- Fun, interactive format
- Share your family’s strengths with others
- Activities for youth
- Childcare for infants, toddlers

Thursday, April 3, 2014
Jane Vernon Elementary School
8518 22nd Ave
6:00 pm

Este programa será presentado en inglés y español

Please register for dinner & childcare by calling 262-654-1004.
Space is limited, so you are encouraged to register early!
THE BLUE RIBBON ANTHOLOGY

Child abuse makes headlines:
Look, Listen and Learn about the people behind the headlines
& the part you play in preventing them from happening.
A dramatic presentation of perspectives shining light on a complex issue.

Tuesday, April 8th, 7:00 PM, St. John’s Lutheran Church
3833 8th Avenue, Kenosha, WI
262-654-7113

Wednesday, April 9th, Kenosha County Job Center,
8600 Sheridan Road, RM N2
Call Kathy Burns with questions: 697-4628

Thursday, April 10th, 7:00 PM, Carthage College, Campbell Student Union Theatre
2001 Alford Park Drive, Kenosha, WI

Monday, April 14th, 11:00 AM, Outreach Center
2006 60th Street, Kenosha, WI
Registration required: Megan @ 262-652-5545

Thursday, April 17th, 6:30 PM Kenosha County Center
Hwys:45 & 50, Bristol, WI
Registration required: Kathy Burns @ 262-697-4628

Wednesday, April 23rd, 11:30 AM Gateway College, Commons Area
3520 30th Avenue, Kenosha, WI

THE BLUE RIBBON ANTHOLOGY is part of the Turn the Town Blue Campaign,
a community collaborative that includes the Kenosha County Department of Human Services
Division of Children and Family Services, Kenosha County Division of Health, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin-Kenosha Child
Advocacy Center,
Community Impact Programs, Inc., Kenosha County Prevention Services Network, Kenosha Unified School District #1,
Children’s Hospital of WI Community Services, United Hospital System, the Kenosha Association for the Education of Young
Children, the Kenosha Community
Health Center and Just Add Kids.
The mission of the **PSN Family Resource Center** is to provide programs and services that build on family strengths through prevention, education, support and networking in collaboration with other resources in the community.

**The PSN Family Resource Center**, located in the Kenosha County Human Services Building at 8600 Sheridan Road, Kenosha, offers drop-in hours every **Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00** for parents to drop in and talk to someone about parenting concerns, pick up information about community resources, and find out about programs and services of the PSN.

Check out our website at [www.PSNFamilyResourceCenter.com](http://www.PSNFamilyResourceCenter.com)

---

**Café Talk**

- Parents need to be strong and flexible
- Parents need friends
- Being a great parent is part natural and part learned
- We all need help sometimes
- Parents need to help their children communicate
- Parents need to give their children the love and respect they need

The English sessions are held the fourth Tuesday every month at 10:00 am
The next Café Talk will be held April 22nd.

You can share your own wisdom and learn something you never thought of before!
Pastries, coffee and tea will be served.
Café Talk is held in the PSN Family Resource Center, 8600 Sheridan Road, Kenosha
For more information, please call Mary at (262) 697-4605

---

**Padres de Familia necesitan ser Fuertes y Flexibles**
**Padres de Familia necesitan Amistades**
**Ser un Gran Padre de Familia es en parte Natural y parte aprendida**
**Todos necesitamos ayuda alguna vez**
**Los Padres necesitamos ayudar a nuestros hijos comunicándonos**
**Los Padres necesitamos darles a nuestros hijos el Amor y Respeto que necesitan**

El Segundo Martes de cada mes a las 10:00 para Café Talk en Español – April 8th at the Boy’s and Girl’s Club
1330 52nd Street, Kenosha, WI 53140

Usted puede compartir su sabiduría y aprender algo que nunca antes habría pensado!
Pastelillos, café y té serán servidos.
Para más información, por favor hable a Jomarie al (262) 658-3508, ext. 121
KEEPPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

What is Stewards of Children?

Stewards of Children is a prevention training program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for organizations that serve youth and for individuals concerned about the safety of children. It is the only nationally distributed, evidence based program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and change child protective behaviors.

JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT!

Hosted by Prevention Services Network
Kenosha County Job Center, Room North 2
Tuesday, April 29th; 11:30-1:30pm (Lunch will be served)

To register please contact Mary Metten: 262-697-4605;
mary.metten@kenoshacounty.org
**Spotlight on Parenting**  
With Kathy Burns  
Monday, April 14, 2014  
**The Blue Ribbon Anthology**  
will be presented at this Spotlight  
11:00 to 12:00  
This Spotlight is held at the  
Outreach Center, 2000 60th Street, Kenosha, WI  
Lunch immediately following the program

Registration is required. Call Megan Burgess to register at 652-5545

---

**Spotlight on Literacy**  
With Kathy Burns  
Tuesday, April 15, 2014  
**Telling Our Stories**  
Strategies for Communicating with Each Other.  
Each participant will have the opportunity to write their own book!  
You must have a minor child to participate in this Spotlight.  
12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM  
This Spotlight is held in the PSN Family Resource Center,  
8600 Sheridan Road, Kenosha.  
Lunch will be provided. **Space is limited and Registration is required.**  
Call 697-4520.
PARENT TALK LUNCH

COME LEARN GROW

April 2, Parent Cafe
presented by PSN
Room South 9

April 9, The Blue Ribbon Anthology
presented by PSN
Room North 2

April 16, Building Strong Families
presented by PSN
Room North 2

April 23, Spring Break - No Lunch Today

April 30, Snacking with Veggies
presented by WIC
Room North 2

Lunch is held from 12:00 to 1:00 PM at the
Kenosha County Human Services Building,
8600 Sheridan Road, Kenosha

Lunch is free, but you must pre-register by stopping in or calling
A Child’s Place Child Development Center
697-4754
After 13 years with the Prevention Services Network, Kathy Burns has decided to retire.

Kathy has been an amazing asset to the PSN. Her positive, strength-based approach, her commitment to early childhood programs, her creativity and thoughtfulness, and her mentorship of families and staff will be deeply missed.

We thank her for her many years of service to the families of Kenosha County.

Please join us for a farewell open house

Thursday, May 1, 2014
2:00 to 5:00 PM

PSN Family Resource Center

Everyone is welcome!

Congratulations, Kathy!
Best wishes!