



Summit County
CHILDREN SERVICES
Building Families . . . Building Futures

MEDIA RELEASE

Summit County Children Services ■ 264 South Arlington Street ■ Akron, Ohio 44306

For Immediate Release

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Summit County Children Services promotes Wear Blue campaign, Child & Family Awareness Month activities

AKRON, Ohio – March 2018 – Summit County Children Services (SCCS) and the Summit County community will come together on April 11th to raise awareness for child abuse prevention by wearing blue. SCCS received more than 10,000 intake calls of concern regarding the safety and well-being of children in 2017 and through the Wear Blue campaign, community members will band together under the philosophy that "Child abuse is preventable."

This month, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro signed proclamations recognizing April as Child & Family Awareness Month and declaring April 11th as Wear Blue Day in Summit County, encouraging all citizens to support the Wear Blue initiative in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Prominent community members and county officials will be voicing their active support of the Wear Blue campaign through a PSA-style collaborative video to be released in April. Additional commitments of support have come from Akron Children's Hospital, which will turn the exterior lights on their parking deck blue on April 11th. SCCS invites businesses, churches and other organizations to join them by wearing blue or turning lights blue to show your support of this important cause.

Child & Family Awareness Month has been observed annually throughout Summit County for over 30 years, and SCCS and numerous agencies and organizations have formed a unique network committed to community awareness and education as a vehicle for child abuse prevention. With the slogan "A Family is the Door to Happiness," Child & Family Awareness Month will use the following events to raise awareness on this important issue of child abuse and neglect prevention:

Training: Protect Your Church, Protect Your Children: Complying with Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Laws

Date: April 3rd

Time: 6-9 p.m.

Location: Summit County Children Services, 264 S. Arlington St., Akron

Description: This program is specifically designed to help church leaders understand child abuse and neglect precautions, and participants will learn about mandated reporting, child abuse and neglect indicators and current procedures.

Wear Blue

Date: April 11th

Description: All members of the Summit County community are invited to participate in wearing blue to promote child abuse prevention and awareness, and SCCS encourages participants to share why they wear blue on social media with the hashtag #SummitWearsBlue or send photos to arenda@summitkids.org.

Close-Up on the Effects of Childhood Trauma on the Family

Date: April 18th

Time: 8a.m. – 12p.m.

Location: Greek Community Center, 129 S. Union St., Akron

Description: Keynote speaker Dr. Vincent J. Felitti, one of the world's foremost experts on childhood trauma, will discuss the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, which displays connections between adverse childhood experiences and health problems as an adult.

9th Annual Community Appreciation Breakfast

Date: April 27th

Time: 7:30-9:30a.m.

Location: St. George Family Center, 3204 Ridgewood Rd., Akron

Description: The appreciation breakfast will honor organizations, agencies, businesses, civic groups, families and individuals who have supported the families and children served by SCCS over the past year. This event is invitation only.

For more information regarding Wear Blue and Child & Family Awareness Month, please contact Ann Ream at 330-379-2070 or at aream@summitkids.org.

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