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**This April Support #Great Childhoods
Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island Chapter is encouraging everyone in Rhode Island to take
action on behalf of children during Child Abuse Prevention Month.**

Warwick, Rhode Island - April is the time to raise public awareness to prevent child abuse and neglect, according to leaders of Prevent Child Abuse America, Rhode Island Chapter at Parent Support Network of Rhode Island. This April during Child Abuse Prevention Month are asking everyone to help promote great childhoods. We are partnering with schools and community agency personnel, who are engaging children, youth and families on how to recognize child abuse and neglect and report as necessary and promote prevention activities.

There were 3505 children in Rhode Island in 2018 who experienced child abuse and neglect. With more families at home during this crisis, there are more children at risk or who could be experiencing abuse and neglect. We understand that parents are experiencing high levels of stress. Parent Support Network is ready to provide peer support and assistance to families in need at 401-467-6855

Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island is asking everyone to get involved in our virtual public awareness activities starting with wearing blue on Monday, April 13. Please wear your best blue clothes and accessories and take a selfie. Share it on Facebook! #wearblueRI #greatchildhoodsRI #CAPmonth @Parent Support Network of Rhode Island

During the month we usually disseminate pinwheels and plant pinwheel gardens across the state. Pinwheels are the national symbol for the prevention of child abuse, it is the physical embodiment and reminder of the great childhoods we want for all children. This year due to COVID-19, we are asking individuals and families to color and cut out paper pinwheels and other artwork and make a pinwheel garden in your window for neighbors and your community to see. Take a picture of it and share on Facebook #pinwheelgardensRI #greatchildhoodRI #CAPmonth #pinwheelsfor prevention and @Parent Support Network of Rhode Island. Visit www.psnri.org for our virtual tool kit with pinwheel cut outs.

Prevent Child Abuse RI -Parent Support Network wants everyone to recognize the everyday Rhode Island heroes who are doing extraordinary things for children and families across the state to build strong families and prevent child abuse and neglect during this time of crisis. "We will not know the impact COVID 19 will have on our children until we resume our daily lives. Our children need you now! Everyone can make great childhoods happen—especially you, especially now. Our social workers are vital during this time, though their work looks different now, they are out there on the frontlines making sure our children are safe", explained Melissa Esposito PCA Statewide Prevention Coordinator. Let's #thankARIsocialworker by posting on social media words of encouragement, a funny lighthearted meme or inspirational quote. Put a smile on their face, let social workers know they are appreciated!

Prevent Child Abuse RI, will work with state and local partners to hold Digital Advocacy Day with Prevent Child Abuse America on April 28. We are planning a Virtual Policy Forum.

“We need to continue to advocate for policies like the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act and Families First, to ensure that we have programs that can intervene early and prevent the removal of children and to strengthen families. We also know the more stable, caring adults in a child’s life, the more likely they are to succeed in the face of adversity,” said Lisa Conlan Lewis, Executive Director of Parent Support Network. We will release more information on the April 28 Digital Advocacy Day soon.

About Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island

Founded in 1988, Parent Support Network of Rhode Island (PSN) is committed to the support, education, and advocacy of families who have children at risk of emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges. Many of the families PSN works with are at-risk or involved with child welfare. As the Rhode Island Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America we are committed to raising statewide awareness on the prevention of child abuse and neglect with ongoing community-based activities and educational training events with families, community, and state partners. We offer ongoing parent assistance and educational opportunities focused on strengthening families. To learn more, please visit us at www.psnri.org.

About Prevent Child Abuse America

Founded in 1972, Prevent Child Abuse America is a national organization with chapters in all 50 states and nearly 600 Healthy Families America home visitation sites. We lay the groundwork to deliver the great childhoods that all children deserve. We promote services that improve child well-being and develop programs that help to prevent all types of abuse and neglect. Ninety-two cents of every dollar donated goes directly into programs and services, which is why we have received top ratings by a variety of charity watchdog organizations, including Charity Navigator, Great Non-profits and GuideStar. To learn more about what we are doing to prevent child abuse and neglect and how you can help, visit us at preventchildabuse.org.