



April is
Child Abuse Prevention
Month

April's Child Abuse Prevention Month Launches Community Convenings to support "Our Community Together for Child and Family Well-being"

Farmington, Maine April 1st — April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time when our Prevention Council at Franklin County Children's Task Force connects with our local community to focus on child and family well-being. We know that local residents of Franklin County are the experts on what is needed and are the greatest resource for advancing child and family supports. This April we hope to hear from our community on ideas and existing locations of community-based spaces that support caregivers and youth so we can network together and align efforts.

To do this, our Prevention Council will provide a series of opportunities in Franklin County to hear from the community. By coming together and listening to the community, caregivers, youth, and providers, we are creating the conditions for better outcomes through a coordinated approach. "Community support and partnerships can help lighten the burden on families and strengthen communities and our greatest source of knowledge and information is right here with the people of Greater Franklin County," said Prevention Council Director, Rileigh Blanchet.

"Every caregiver, parent, and child should have access to a place that provides support in their area," said Prevention Council Director, Rileigh Blanchet. "In April, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, we recognize the importance of linking arms in our community to ensure we know where caregivers access existing supports that help lift the load for all families."

"The work of ensuring child and family well-being is a joint effort," said Heidi Aakjer, Executive Director at Maine Children's Trust. "And our work is rooted in both aspiration and inspiration by the community members themselves along with evidence-informed practices. Our goal is to provide help and hope before a crisis occurs. We ask that this month, community members will allow us a few minutes of their day to hear their ideas and thoughts because the rewards of thriving children in Maine far outweigh the time, effort, and hurdles that must be overcome to support them."

This month, and all year long, you can help the Franklin County Children’s Task Force to support parents and caregivers and building the relationships and connections in communities so that families can readily access what they need to help every child by taking action in the following ways:

- Join us at an upcoming convening to share locations and experiences about places in Franklin County that support youth and caregivers.
- You can show support for promoting positive childhood experiences and preventing adversity by wearing blue on April 5th for #WearBlueDay to kick off CAP Month with momentum. Post a photo and include the #WearBlueDay2024 hashtag.
- Follow Franklin County Children’s Task Force on social media and share our posts throughout April. Encourage friends and family to do the same. Use the hashtags #ChildAbusePreventionMonth and #CAPMonth to signify your commitment to helping children, families, and entire communities to thrive.
- Display a pinwheel – an uplifting symbol of the great childhoods we want for all children. Supportive communities and strong families nurture great childhoods and help prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Provide us with resources to share with families in home visits, parent education classes, and also through Welcome Baby Bags that are given to all new baby born at Franklin Memorial Hospital.
- For more ways to get involved this April, please visit www.fcctf.org



About Franklin County’s Prevention Council:

The Franklin County Children’s Task Force is a private, not-for-profit corporation committed to strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect through mobilizing community resources and advocating for and providing services that promote healthy children and families. For more information, please visit www.fcctf.org.



About Maine Children’s Trust

Maine Children's Trust works to strengthen families, promote healthy relationships, and support communities to prevent child abuse and neglect. Maine Children’s Trust is the state chapter for Prevent Child Abuse Maine. For more information, please visit www.mechildrenstrust.org.

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