

## WHY FOCUS ON PREVENTION?

Prevention of critical social problems in our society has frequently taken a back seat to the identification and treatment of the problem. Given that 93,251 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect are received every year in Ohio, tremendous demand is placed on the protective service system to investigate these allegations and intervene to protect children. Without a special, dedicated funding mechanism to exclusively support the development, evaluation, and maintenance of prevention programs, these prevention efforts would be limited given the scarce resources in the family and children's services arena.

The OCTF is Ohio's public investment in the prevention of child abuse and neglect through increasing community awareness; education and supporting parents; teaching personal safety and life skills to children and youth; training professionals; and offering crisis intervention services. Moreover, OCTF has a responsibility to shape a conceptual framework for child abuse and neglect prevention to address this complex and serious social problem in our society that cuts across class, age, race, and geographical barriers. By supporting efforts to eliminate the problem of child abuse and neglect before it has begun, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund brings prevention activities to the forefront.