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Thousands of Pinwheels Will Draw Attention to Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

COLUMBUS, OHIO – In recognition of Ohio Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund and others will place thousands of pinwheels on the lawn at Columbus' Center of Science and Industry (COSI) on Saturday, April 21, 2012. The pinwheels will represent just a fraction of those who are speaking out against child abuse and neglect in Franklin County.

"Each pinwheel stands for an individual who has strengthened a family, relieved stressors, and helped prevent child abuse and neglect," stated Kristen Rost, interim executive director of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. "As we see the pinwheels blowing in the wind throughout the month of April, let them remind us of ways we can strengthen families in our own neighborhoods and communities."

"Franklin County Children Services receives more than 2,300 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect each month," said Joetta McCruter-Polk, communications specialist at Franklin County Children Services. "As we observe Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in April, we strongly encourage the community to help us raise awareness of this national tragedy. These blue childhood toys remind us that every child needs our protection."

"The purpose of the pinwheels is to give a visual demonstration of how people are speaking out against child abuse," said Tifani Kendrick, manager of youth outreach at COSI. "Placing them at COSI gives the cause more visibility and our visitors a chance to engage with them."

Planting will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, following brief remarks from representatives of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund and Franklin County Children Services.

For more information about child abuse prevention programs and activities happening in your community during the month of April and throughout the year, visit www.jfs.ohio.gov/octf.

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund is the state's sole public funding source dedicated to preventing abuse and neglect. Housed within the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund works with its 88 county partners to serve all Ohio communities.

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