

ABOUT THE BLUE RIBBON

Over the past decade, the **blue ribbon** has become widely recognized as a national symbol of child abuse awareness and prevention. This movement began in the spring of 1989, when a compassionate grandmother, Bonnie Finney of Norfolk, VA, took a public stand against child maltreatment after her grandson tragically died as a result of physical abuse. His death gave her the strength to reach out to get others involved in the fight against child abuse and neglect. Bonnie tied a **blue ribbon** on her van as a symbol of her commitment to reach out and involve others in the battle to prevent child abuse. Why the color **blue**? When children are physically abused, they suffer bruises. Bruises are initially black, and then eventually, they turn blue. According to Bonnie, the **blue ribbon** will remind us that we need to protect our children, and prevent abuse.

The spirit of the **blue ribbon** has grown and has inspired efforts nationwide to increase awareness and understanding about the importance of preventing child abuse and neglect. It serves as a symbol, unifying child advocates in all 50 states, and functions as a visible gesture of support for prevention.

Please join us in spreading the message....it's easy!

Just wear a blue ribbon as a visible gesture of your support for child abuse/neglect prevention...tie one on your car, purse, or briefcase...give one to your friends and neighbors...tell everyone you meet what it represents, and what they can do to prevent child abuse and neglect. You **can** make a difference!

To request **blue ribbon** lapel pins, contact:

**The Ohio Children's Trust Fund
255 East Main Street, 3rd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5222
(614) 466-1822**