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Ohio Children's Trust Fund: Winds of Change - It's Your Turn to Raise the Leaders of Tomorrow
April is Ohio and National Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Governor Strickland has declared April 2010 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in Ohio, urging Ohioans to make a difference in protecting children. In observance, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund encourages all individuals and organizations to play an active role in making their communities a better place for families.

Child abuse and neglect prevention is one of the most critical issues we can address for the long-term prosperity of our state. The rates of maltreatment are on the rise in Ohio (86,072 reports of child abuse in 2008) and we all have a responsibility to work together to prevent child abuse and neglect.

"The *Winds of Change - It's Your Turn to Raise the Leaders of Tomorrow* campaign is geared toward changing the way Ohio thinks about child abuse and neglect prevention," said State Representative Edna Brown, Chairman of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board.

"Research has demonstrated that our past collective efforts have been successful at raising child abuse and neglect awareness across Ohio. Now is the time to advance from making people aware of child abuse and neglect to taking concrete action to prevent it. It indeed takes a community to keep children free from abuse and neglect and **everyone** has an active role to play in this effort."

All Ohioans share a responsibility to support children and promote safe and stable families. Research has shown that toxic stress from child abuse and neglect impedes healthy brain development and effective child development is effective economic development. As a result, child abuse and neglect prevention is the most critical issue we can address for the long-term prosperity of our state and nation.

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund asks you to help make a difference in the lives of Ohio's most precious resource -- our children. Whether it is volunteering your time for programs that support children, supporting child advocacy groups or advocating for other efforts designed to protect children in Ohio and across the country, everyone can take a lead in making a difference.

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 in partnership with its 88 county partners to serve all Ohio communities.

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

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