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Newsletter Submission

“Do One Thing” and help prevent child abuse!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Approximately 3 million children are reported abused or neglected every year in the U.S. In 2005, 469 children’s families were investigated here in Mason County.

Whether you’re a caregiver, community member or business, you can do something to protect the children in your family, neighborhood and schools from abuse and neglect. The Andre’ Bosse Center Kid’s House, Mason County Council on the Prevention of Child Abuse and West Michigan Community Mental Health are teaming up to encourage everyone to “Do One Thing” to protect our children and strengthen our community.

Community Members...Do 1 Thing!

1. Mentor a child or a parent through local volunteer programs.
2. Plan parenting or child abuse education programs at your workplace, church or other organizations.
3. Praise a child when they have tried hard at something or used good manners.
4. Babysit for a stressed out neighbor or friend.
5. Donate your time or money to local child abuse prevention organizations.

Businesses/Organizations...Do 1 Thing!

1. Financially sponsor or organize low or no-cost events that encourage families to spend time together.
2. When possible be accommodating with employees who want/need to attend an activity at their child’s school.
3. Plan a fundraiser (large or small) and donate proceeds to a child abuse prevention organization.
4. Arrange for presentations to your group/staff on parenting issues, child abuse education, or stress management.

The most important ONE action you can take for a child is to REPORT suspected abuse.

If a child is in danger, call the 9-1-1.

To report suspected abuse, call your Child Protective Services.

The Andre' Bosse Center Kid's House of Mason County opened in November 2005, after a group of concerned community members voiced a need for Mason County children to have greater access to services being offered through the Andre' Bosse Center of Oceana County. The gift of the Ludington Manpower building made it possible for the Andre' Bosse Center to open a second center in Mason County. Programs and services offered at Kid's House are guided by an Advisory Committee made up of individuals from local law enforcement agencies, the courts, and child protective services. For more information about the Andre' Bosse Centers and the resources they provide call 845-0506.

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