

## GOVERNOR DEAL SIGNS APRIL PROCLAMATION



On April 4, 2012 Dr. John R. Lutzker, Director of the Center for Healthy Development, which houses Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, attended Governor Deal's signing of the proclamation to declare April 2012 to be Child Abuse Prevention Month in Georgia. PCA Georgia is partially supported by a grant from the Governor's Office for Children and Families. Read the full press release [here](#).



Photo: Rick Ratliff, President of Prevent Child Abuse Cook County Council, poses with child abuse prevention advocates in Adel.

**Prevent Child Abuse Cook County** gathered on April 4, 2012 to mark the beginning of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Prevention advocates placed 88 pinwheels to represent the number of substantiated child abuse cases reported in Cook County in 2011 and donned blue wristbands that read "No Excuse for Child Abuse".

## APRIL EVENTS ROUNDUP

**Prevent Child Abuse Lowndes County** and the Children's Advocacy Center of Lowndes County teamed up for a Blue Ribbon and Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign. The 828 pinwheels on the Valdosta City Hall lawn represent the 828 reports of child abuse that were reported in Lowndes County in 2011.



Photo: PCA Lowndes County and the Children's Advocacy Center of Lowndes County.

- **PCA Habersham** held an April kickoff event at Habersham Medical Center on April 2, 2012.
- Cobb and Douglas Public Health and DFCS hosted a safe sleep event on April 25, 2012.
- **PCA Athens** hosted First Lady Sandra Deal on April 3, 2012. Further information [here](#).

### SAVE THE DATE!

- **05/23/12, 1:00 p.m.** : Executive Director conference call on Wednesday 5/23. We will be discussing April events and recent updates. Please email Carol at [cnealrossi@gsu.edu](mailto:cnealrossi@gsu.edu) to be added to the agenda.
- **09/12/12**: PCA Georgia Conference at Georgia State University. More details coming soon!

April was a busy month for both PCA Georgia and child abuse prevention advocates all over the state.

- April 11: Carol spoke at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy Conference at Lake Lanier.
- April 17-20: Carol represented PCA Georgia at the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Washington, D.C.
- April 17: Carol attended a senate briefing on Capitol Hill about the Protect Our Kids Act and the release of the 2012 “State Secrecy and Child Deaths in the U.S.” report. (see Advocacy alert article with links.)
- April 21: The Georgia Federation of Women’s Club’s held their annual meeting in Atlanta and had Carol speak on Pinwheels for Prevention and the club’s long-standing support of child safety and wellness initiatives.
- April 23: PCA Coweta held their 8th Annual Candlelight Vigil. Carol presented Helen Passantino with a PCA Georgia lifetime service award.

## ADVOCACY ALERT: PROTECT OUR KIDS ACT

Following the release of the Government Accountability Office’s Report, “Child Fatalities from Maltreatment: National Data Could Be Strengthened,” child welfare advocates began working to enact new legislation to paint a more accurate picture of current child abuse and neglect rates. This effort evolved into the **Protect Our Kids Act**, which Senators Kerry and Collins introduced in the Senate and Representatives Doggett and Crowley introduced in the House in December of 2011. Some of the primary goals of the law are ensuring quality reporting and disclosure of child abuse and neglect statistics across all states. ([Fact Sheet](#))

Last month the Children’s Advocacy Institute, First Star, and the University of San Diego School of Law collaborated to release a follow-up report, “[State Secrecy and Child Deaths in the U.S.](#),” which ranks child death and near death reporting on a state-by-state basis. The report further emphasizes the need for reform of child abuse death reporting and the importance of legislation such as the Protect Our Kids Act.

## RESEARCH AND TRAINING

**Voices for Georgia’s Children:** [Summary of HB1176](#), which expands the list of mandatory reporters in Georgia ([Full text of HB1176](#)). Download “[How are Georgia’s children doing?](#),” an online factsheet with current statistics and information about Georgia’s 0 to 5 population.

**CDC Training:** [A Public Health Approach to Child Maltreatment Prevention](#), [Child Maltreatment Prevention Data and Surveillance](#), [Tools & Strategies to Support Health Departments in Child Maltreatment Prevention Efforts](#).

**Zero to Three:** Download state-by-state facts about early childhood welfare by clicking [here](#).

**National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS):** [Overview of various child welfare publications](#), including information about prevalence, prevention, response, and more. [Online survey](#) about improving Child Welfare Information Gateway’s National Child Abuse Prevention Month website.

**U.S. DHHS Administration for Children and Families:** [An explanation](#) of the ACF’s policies and practices that encourage social and emotional well-being of children, especially children who are victims of abuse or neglect. [Online survey](#) about improving Child Welfare Information Gateway’s National Child Abuse Prevention Month website.

**Stop Bullying:** [Updated website](#) with links to information about bullying warning signs and prevention.



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