

Press Release

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More Efforts to Prevent Child Abuse

NEW BRUNSWICK – December 17, 2004 - The announcement yesterday by Human Services Commissioner Jim Davy of the Safe Child Fund was welcome news to Prevent Child Abuse – NJ, (PCA-NJ) the New Jersey chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. The Safe Child Fund will direct private resources to preventing child abuse. The volunteer Board of Directors and professional staff of the organization have been working since 1979 to spread the word that child abuse can be prevented. “For so long, State government has been forced to direct so many resources into protecting children already at risk that prevention has taken a back seat. We often felt like we were speaking a different language,” said Joel Krinsky, Board President of PCA-NJ.

“Colleagues in state government have been very receptive to working with us to advance prevention as a science,” said Janet Rosenzweig, Executive Director of PCA-NJ. “There are research based prevention programs and strategies that have a proven track record both here in NJ and across the Country. We hope to continue our partnership with the Department and ensure that these new, badly needed resources have the strongest possible impact by being directed to programs of this type.” Rosenzweig offered the example of the Healthy Families Home Visitation program for new parents and the EPIC program, recently introduced to families in the Newark public schools, as examples of a successful strategy.

“In business, we know to choose strategies and tactics very carefully once we have identified goals. With business leaders now supporting child abuse prevention, I’m encouraged that these same principles will apply,” said Micky Landis, Sr. Vice President of Boston Properties in Princeton and PCA-NJ Board of Director member.

Professional staff from PCA-NJ and others in New Jersey have made remarkable progress in the last two years in bringing prevention onto center stage. Members of the Prevention Subcommittee of the NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect have published a manual on Standards for Prevention programs that has been published by Family Support America and distributed nationally.

Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey is a statewide, non-profit agency that is guided by the mission of eliminating child abuse and neglect in all of its forms. 2004 marks the 25th year of service to New Jersey.

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