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Help To Protect New Jersey's Children

Featured Letter

We must consider how we can help parents perform the most difficult job of all; raising children in safe, healthy and nurtured homes. Decades of research have informed the development of effective services to reduce the factors that cause child abuse and neglect. We need to make these services available to all families, regardless of wealth, to ensure that children are never harmed.

Home visiting and parent education programs can build protective factors and reduce risk factors. New Jersey has a national model of collaborative excellence in the home visitation field, bringing together various models like Healthy Families, Nurse Family Partnership, and Parents as Teachers. These services educate parents about critical child development milestones, decrease a parent's social isolation, inform families about appropriate forms of discipline and empower parents with knowledge and support reduces risk and builds resiliency. Parent support groups, such as EPIC (Every Person Influences Children) and Circle of Parents, can give parents the education and dialogue needed to foster their confidence and strengthen the decisions they make for their family.

We each have a responsibility to recognize the signs of child abuse and report information when child maltreatment is suspected, but these very factors imply that the abuse and neglect may be occurring already. Our greatest responsibility to children is to ensure that they never experience these symptoms.

It's time we acted as a community to examine how we can provide prevention services to all of our families in need. The well-being of a child is a shared responsibility that is critical to the fabric and integrity of our society. It takes the entire community working together to ensure that these terrible situations never happen. And when a community works together in the interest of children, child abuse and horrible CAN be prevented.

Prevention services come with a cost; but so, too, does the limited availability of these critical community services. We can choose to invest in children, or experience the painful human costs later. As a country, the United States has acted with decisiveness and unwavering commitment whenever our economic or national security has been threatened. Let's make the same commitment to nurture our greatest resource....our children. Child abuse can be prevented. Learn more by visiting www.preventchildabuse.nj.org/ or calling 1-800-CHILDREN.

Jim Hmurovich, Judy Tell Feldman, Prevent Child Abuse

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WORLD WAR II VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
In April of 2010, the Township will be dedicating a new park in the Whiting section of the Township. It will be called WORLD WAR II VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK to be dedicated to "the greatest generation."
A Sculpture of a US World War II Soldier will be erected at the site of the new park. The cost of the monument will be funded through donations. This cost will not be borne by the Township or tax dollars, only by the generosity of our residents and by those that feel this is a worthy tribute to those who fought to preserve our freedom.