



Standing with Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. are, from left, Farlem Valencia and Alicia Edmond, employees of FamilyConnections, who receive on behalf of the organization the proclamation recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month.

## Gathering promotes keeping children safe

On April 13, FamilyConnections' Family Success Center of Orange hosted a Community Workshop in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. This event offered the community a healthy supper during an afternoon of educational guest speakers, community representatives, and resources. The message of the day is that child abuse can be prevented and our shared community has an important role in making that happen.

Joining the local families was Orange Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr., who read an official proclamation honoring the event.

The guest speaker was Peter Herbst, executive director of Hudson County Child Abuse Prevention Center. Other representatives attended from Wynona's House, Healthy Start Initiative Program, Essex County Pregnancy and Parenting Connection, and the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center.

FamilyConnections is a non-profit counseling and family service agency with more than 30 specialized programs for all ages from infants to seniors. The agency delivers research-based therapeutic services to improve the quality of life throughout the community by reducing child abuse, drug abuse, gang involvement and crime; by increasing social and coping skills, school success, and employability; and by healing emotional pain and helping individuals and families become strong and independent.

