



## Child Abuse Prevention Month April 2011

For Information, call Child Abuse Prevention Services, Inc. 254-2000

**April 7** - Build a Bear event at Child Abuse Prevention Services, Inc. (CAPS) office in the United Way Bldg. Volunteers from CAPS and General Electric Aviation will build bears which will be given to CAPS young counseling clients who have experienced abuse.

**April 12** - Mayor Terry Bellamy and the City Council will proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Asheville at the city council meeting at 5 p.m.

**April 19** - Chairman David Gantt and the Board of Commissioners will proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Buncombe at the County Commission meeting at 4:30 p.m.

**April 22** - Blue Ribbon Night at The Asheville Tourists game: Child Abuse Prevention Services, Inc. staff and volunteers will hand out blue ribbons at the gate and take to the field before the game to pin a large Blue Ribbon on Ted E. as he takes a stand against child abuse. Young Alexis Allen will pin the Blue Ribbon on Ted E. Tourist.

**April 30** - Paws for Kids - walking together for child and animal protection from 1 to 3 pm at Biltmore Park Town Square. There will be music, blue bandannas for dogs, blue ribbons and blue pinwheels for kids, face painting (blue ribbon), Ident-A-Kid, a magician, clowns, contests, a raffle, and awards for children and dogs, and also the Blue Ribbon Award to a community member. Sheriff Van Duncan, assisted by Paul Howey and Jelly from Paws with a Purpose, young Abraham and Nolan Pospishil, Lynn Kieffer, Chair of CAPS, Katherine McGowan Shenar of the Asheville Humane Society, and the Child Protection Team of Buncombe County will cut a gigantic Blue Ribbon to start the event. Eddie Foxx and Sharon Green of Kiss Country Radio will emcee the event from 1 to 3 pm Saturday, April 30 at Biltmore Park in front of the YMCA. Sponsors are Child Abuse Prevention Services, The Asheville Humane Society, the Child Protection Team, Mission Health system, Biltmore Park Town Square, Kiss Country/Clear Channel Radio, RBC Bank, Kohl's Cares, Ident-A-Kid, Fast Signs, Inform, Loni Benfield, and Connie Aridas Creative.

During April there will also be Blue Ribbons and literature at libraries, businesses, physicians' offices, and churches. CAPS will be presenting the prevention/personal safety program in city and county schools throughout the month, as well as providing "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent"

Demonstrate a Commitment to  
Preventing Child Abuse and Protecting All Children - Our Future  
Become Aware                      Become Involved  
[www.childabusepreventionservices.org](http://www.childabusepreventionservices.org)  
[caps@childabusepreventionservices.org](mailto:caps@childabusepreventionservices.org)

**THE STORY BEHIND THE BLUE RIBBON** -The Blue Ribbon became the symbol of child abuse prevention when a Virginia grandmother tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her van after her grandson was fatally abused as a signal to her community of her commitment to involve everyone in the battle against child abuse. She chose blue after seeing her grandson's battered blue body. Her action - the action of one person - has evolved into a national campaign with millions of blue ribbons across the country every April.

**THE STORY OF MARY ELLEN AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS** - Mary Ellen, age 10, was being physically and emotionally abused in New York in 1874. A settlement house social worker tried to help, but there were no laws protecting children then. Eventually she sought help from Henry Bergh, Pres. of the SPCA. Bergh went to the media, got the case into court, and the child was placed in a home for girls, then with the social worker's mother. Shortly thereafter the NY Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was founded, which was the beginning of the child protection movement in America. Ironically, we had protection for animals long before protection for children. Now, with Paws for Kids, we can walk together to protect children and animals.