



Media Alert

For Immediate Release

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First Lady Katie O'Malley and The Family Tree to Kick Off Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Campaign

Monday, April 5 at 6:00 pm, Lawyers Mall, State House, Annapolis

April 1, 2010 - The Family Tree, Maryland's leading child abuse prevention organization and First Lady Katie O'Malley will host a press conference on Monday, April 5 at 6:00 pm at the Lawyers Mall of the State House in Annapolis to launch a new awareness campaign called *Stand for Children-Pinwheels for Prevention*. This campaign is designed to engage the public on the role we all play in building strong families. It is being launched this April in celebration of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Underwritten by M&T Bank, the *Stand for Children-Pinwheels for Prevention* campaign has a website, www.standforchildrenmd.org with practical information on building strong families, and the opportunity for families to design and dedicate a pinwheel for its virtual pinwheel garden. Visitors to the site can share their pinwheel with friends and colleagues via social media outlets such as Twitter and Facebook. Fact sheets are available on how schools, scout troops, youth groups, faith communities, colleges, organizations, neighborhoods and local businesses can be involved in this effort by creating pinwheel gardens and other awareness events.

This will be the first of many Pinwheel Gardens throughout the State of Maryland in celebration of Stand for Children and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The Family Tree is Maryland's leading nonprofit working to improve our community by providing families with proven solutions to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through family focused education, outreach services and a 24-hour Stressline, we reached over 21,000 parents, caregivers and children last year. The Family Tree is the Maryland chapter of Parents Anonymous® and Prevent Child Abuse America and an affiliate of the National Exchange Club. For more information call 410-889-2300 or visit www.familytreemd.org.

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24-Hour StressLine - 800-243-7337