



# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2024

## Families Invited to STAND Against Child Abuse Event

The annual STAND Against Child Abuse will be held Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on the front lawn of Kentucky Wesleyan College. This event is free to the public. The STAND aims to raise awareness about child abuse prevention, bringing together dozens of community partners with an interest in the wellbeing of children and families. The event pairs education and information with family fun activities, including a bouncy house, petting zoo, face painting, food and giveaways.

“The STAND is a great event for the whole family,” said GRADD’s Community Collaboration for Children (CCC) Program Administrator Maria Shyver. “Everyone has a fun time while also getting resources about preventing child abuse and neglect. We are really grateful to our community partners who help make the STAND possible by bringing information and fun activities.”

This initiative, sponsored by GRADD’s CCC Regional Network and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health & Family Services’ Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), is held each year in April in conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Daviess County Fiscal Court will read a proclamation declaring April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. on the front lawn of Kentucky Wesleyan College.

While the focus of the STAND is prevention, the STAND also honors the sixty-eight lives lost and 134 lives nearly lost in 2023 due to child abuse in Kentucky. To anonymously report an incident of suspected abuse/neglect, please call the Kentucky Child Protection Hotline at 1-877-597-2331 or your local law enforcement agency.

### **For more information, contact:**

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*The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is a regional planning agency and council of governments serving the communities of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster counties. GRADD offers assistance in the fields of aging, health, and social services; community and economic development; transportation planning; and workforce development. Our mission is to afford local governments and citizens a regional forum to identify issues and opportunities, and to provide leadership in planning and implementing programs to improve the quality of life in our district.*