



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2025

Families Invited to “STAND Against Child Abuse” Event

Owensboro, KY – The annual **STAND Against Child Abuse** event will be held on **Friday, April 11th, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** on the front lawn of **Kentucky Wesleyan College**. This event is free to the public and aims to raise awareness about child abuse prevention. It brings together dozens of community partners dedicated to the well-being of children and families. The event combines education and information with fun family 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 grateful to our community partners who help make the STAND possible by bringing information and fun activities.”

This initiative, sponsored by GRADD’s Community Collaboration for Children (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. Donations are provided by Five Star Food Services, Independence Bank, Specialty Foods Group, Sunrise Children Services, and Owensboro Health.

The **Daviess County Fiscal Court** will read a proclamation **declaring April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 9th at 12:30 p.m.** on the **front lawn of Kentucky Wesleyan College**. After the proclamation, students from Owensboro Innovation Academy will plant pinwheels along Frederica Street.

While the focus of the STAND is prevention, the event also honors the fatalities and near fatalities due to child abuse and neglect in Kentucky in 2024. To anonymously report an incident of suspected abuse or 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. 300 GRADD Way, Owensboro, KY 42301 | www.GRADD.com | 270.926.4433