



A letter from Virginia's Honorary Chair for Child Abuse Prevention Month

April, 2013

Dear Friend,

How children start off in life matters. We know from research that children in stable homes with loving and involved parents or caregivers are more likely to succeed in school, become part of a highly-skilled workforce and contribute as productive members of society.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is an opportunity to spotlight the ways adults can invest in children whose stress, instability or other family issues could have lasting consequences.

Abuse and neglect can impact every facet of a child's life, from the ability to achieve academically to the desire to dream. As a globally competitive nation, *we cannot afford to write off our children – our most precious resource.*

For many years, I have been fortunate to work with members of the business community who serve as advocates for the well-being of children. As Virginia's Honorary Chair for Child Abuse Prevention Month, I am encouraging adults across the state to find ways to support children and their parents. We can help parents enhance skills to raise their children with patience and love.

Last year in Virginia, more than 6,300 children were victims in founded reports of abuse and neglect. Thirty-five children died as a result of being abused or neglected by a parent or caretaker. Let us work together to prevent these terrible statistics by helping parents understand their children's needs from birth through the teen years.

Be an advocate for children in your community. Encourage parents to call a **statewide toll-free helpline – 1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)** – for information and support. If you witness or learn of a child being harmed, call the **Virginia Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-552-7096.**

An investment in children today will pay off for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Dugger', written in a cursive style.

Robert H. Dugger
Managing Partner
Hanover Investment Group

