

**PRESS RELEASE
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Prevent Child Abuse Virginia holds Press Conference to Kick-Off April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Richmond, VA – Richmond, VA – Prevent Child Abuse Virginia will be at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden on April 7th at 2:30 pm to kick-off April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. In partnership with The Virginia Department of Social Services, they will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the passage of the child abuse and neglect law that established the Virginia Child Protective Service system.

Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Dr. William Hazel, and Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Maurice Jones, joined us as our 2015 Prevention Month Honorary Co-Chairs. “They understand the connection between preventing child abuse and neglect and securing a brighter future for our communities and Virginia’s workforce”, said Johanna Schuchert, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Virginia. Virginia Department of Social Services Commissioner, Margaret Schultze, will read the official Proclamation from the Governor of Virginia declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. She will then reflect on the evolution of our CPS system since 1975.

This event at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is part of the nationwide Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign that has seen more than 4 million pinwheels distributed nationwide since 2008. Pinwheels are the national symbol for child abuse prevention, and just this April Prevent Child Abuse America and all of its 50 state chapters changed their logo to include the pinwheel imagery. “This will be the 7th year we have planted the official Pinwheel Garden at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden,” said Schuchert. “It symbolizes the healthy and happy childhood that we hope for all children in Virginia and shows that when the community is involved in our work, we can make a positive impact on the future by preventing child abuse and neglect.” Commissioner Schultze will “plant” the first pinwheel for this year’s garden that will be completed in the days following the event.

According to Schuchert, “Pinwheels are a reminder of the happy, healthy childhood that all children deserve, and represent our vision that great childhoods lead to great futures.”

Please join us at this historic event.

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About Prevent Child Abuse Virginia

Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, also known as PCAV, is a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to prevent the abuse and neglect of children throughout the Commonwealth. For nearly 40 years, PCAV has partnered with the State of Virginia, local community governments and organizations, citizens and the business community to emphasize positive parenting practices as the antidote to child abuse and neglect. To learn more please visit www.pcav.org

About Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

One of the most-visited attractions in the Richmond, Va., area, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden offers year-round beauty on a historic property with more than 50 acres of spectacular gardens, dining and shopping. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is a non-profit organization and proceeds support the Garden's educational mission. To learn more please visit www.LewisGinter.org

About Secretary of Healthy and Human Resources, Dr. William A. Hazel

William A. Hazel Jr. MD practiced orthopedic surgery in Northern Virginia until becoming Secretary of Health and Human Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia in January of 2010. As Secretary, Dr. Hazel oversees 11 state agencies with over 16,000 employees including such diverse programs as Medicaid, Behavioral Health, Social Services, as well as Aging and Rehabilitation. To learn more about Secretary Hazel please visit www.Virginia.gov

About Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Maurice Jones

Maurice Jones was appointed Secretary of Commerce and Trade by Governor Terry McAuliffe in January 2014. Previously, Jones served as Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from April 2012 through January 2014. To learn more about Secretary Jones please visit www.Virginia.gov