



For Immediate Release
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Pinwheels promote National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Friends of the Portsmouth Juvenile Court
hosts annual Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign

Portsmouth, VA – A child is abused or neglected every 75 minutes in Virginia. A child dies from mistreatment every 14 days in the Commonwealth. Yet, child abuse and neglect are preventable.

Research tells us that parents and caregivers who have support from family, friends and the community are more likely to provide safe and healthy homes for their children. When parents, particularly young parents, lack support, they may be more likely to make poor decisions. The best way to prevent child maltreatment is to help parents develop the skills and identify the resources they need to be effective parents.

Each April since 2012, Friends of the Portsmouth Juvenile Court has spotlighted this issue during National Child Abuse Prevention Month by “planting” a spectacular garden of blue pinwheels, the national symbol for child abuse prevention. The garden is a visual statement aimed at increasing public awareness and promoting effective prevention strategies. Strengthening families and preventing child abuse requires a shared commitment of individuals and organizations in every community.

The 2019 Pinwheel Garden will be “planted” in Festival Park adjacent to Union Bank and Trust Pavilion. The garden will be dedicated on Monday, April 1 at 3:00 p.m. by the Honorable Jerrauld C. (Jay) Jones of the Virginia House of Delegates. Delegate Jones, the youngest African-American delegate in the Virginia House, serves on the Virginia Commission on Youth. The Commission’s charge is to study and provide recommendations addressing the needs of and services to the Commonwealth’s youths and their families. The event is free and open to the public.

Friends of the Portsmouth Juvenile Court, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 to support children and families who come before the Portsmouth Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. For more information visit www.fopjc.org or contact Susan Fincke at 397-2799.

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