



Contact: Tova Weinberg
Providence House
216.651.5982 ext. 249
tova@provhouse.org

**Providence House Unites Greater Cleveland Community
to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect
With a Successful Month of Activities**

CLEVELAND – In April, Providence House celebrated National Child Abuse and Prevention Month by leading three successful community events that raised awareness and united greater Cleveland behind its work to prevent and eventually eliminate child abuse and neglect in our community.

“For 29 years Providence House has been protecting our community’s most vulnerable children and strengthening our fragile families,” said Natalie Leek Nelson, CEO and President of Providence House. “Our April events go beyond serving as reminders of our mission and create opportunities to rededicate and expand our efforts to end the tragedy of child abuse and neglect.”

Providence House is thrilled with the success of its signature April events:

Pinwheels for Prevention: As April began, Providence House installed 16,461 pinwheels at Tower City Center with the help of nearly 200 volunteers, each pinwheel represented a reported case of child abuse or neglect in Cuyahoga County. The Cuyahoga County Pinwheels for Prevention display was the largest among the 88 counties in Ohio. Mayor Frank Jackson, Ward 3 Councilman Joe Cimperman, and Director of Children and Family Services, Deborah Forkas, raised their voices for community involvement in child abuse prevention as featured speakers at the kick-off press conference on April 1st.

City2City 5K Race & 2k Family Fun Walk: The third annual City2City 5K Run / 2K Family Fun Walk for Child Abuse Prevention took place on Sunday, April 11th and was the most successful in its history with a record 438 participants. The race helps promote the work of Providence House by increasing public awareness. The course begins and ends at Tower City Center with a special turn around at the Providence House campus in Ohio City.

Providence House 29th Annual Spring Luncheon: The month wrapped up with the Providence House “Shades of Blue” Luncheon, held on Thursday, April 29, 2010 in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel. The luncheon is held annually to thank supporters of Providence House and provide the public with an update on prevention efforts in Northeast Ohio. The event featured Honorary Chairs David Gilbert – President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, David O’Brien – President of Oswald Companies and Keith Abrams – Operations Manager from Clear Channel Cleveland along with their own children who are donors and volunteers at Providence House. The prestigious Blue Ribbon Awards for Partnering in Prevention with Providence House were granted to American Greetings, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Berea, Oxford Elementary School in Cleveland Heights, and Rick Londrico. The Luncheon boasted the best day of revenue at the event ever with over 600 guests in attendance donating \$24,603 during the 90-minute program. Total gross revenues are nearly \$115,000 with net proceeds expected at nearly \$75,000. All proceeds are for the direct care and shelter of at-risk children newborn to six years old in the Providence House crisis nursery program.

The Providence House Shades of Blue Luncheon and other April events were made possible through the support of our 2010 Partners in Prevention: The Cleveland Indians Wives Association, PNC Bank, Oswald Companies, American Greetings, KeyBank, Lubrizol, Ohio Savings Bank, Neubert Painting Co., Linear Creative, Gilbane Inc., The Albert M.

Higley Co., Meaden & Moore, Meritain Health, Providence Home Healthcare, Continental Airlines, Glazen Creative Studios, Kaiser Permanente, Grant Thornton, Cleveland Clinic, The Plain Dealer, Clear Channel Cleveland, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rini, University Hospitals/Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, Jones Lang LaSalle, Frantz Ward, Charter One Bank, Brennan Industries, Inc., David and Carole Carr, Honorable Colleen Conway Cooney, and Perry & Karnatz, LLC.

For more information about Providence House and its work, please visit provhouse.org.



Honorary Luncheon Chairs from left: Keith Abrams, Operations Manager Clear Channel Cleveland; David Gilbert, President & CEO Greater Cleveland Sports Commission; David O'Brien, President Oswald Companies



2010 Blue Ribbon Awardees: Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Faith-Based Organization; American Greetings, Corporate Organization; Oxford Elementary – Cleveland Heights/University Heights School District, Community Organization; Rick Londrico, Lifetime Commitment Awardee

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