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**Providence House invites community to  
join effort to prevent child abuse and neglect**  
*Holds three community events during  
National Child Abuse and Prevention Month in April*

CLEVELAND – The Greater Cleveland community is standing at a critical juncture to prevent and end child abuse and neglect. Recent tragedies have raised awareness in the media and throughout the community. Providence House, a frontline organization working to prevent child abuse and neglect, is inviting the community to participate in three events during National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

“Providence House is fighting the battle for our children every day, and needs the community’s partnership in the critical effort to end these tragedies,” said Natalie Leek-Nelson, CEO of Providence House. “National Child Abuse Prevention Month and the events hosted by Providence House call attention to the unquestionable need to end child abuse and neglect, but our work to prevent this devastating problem requires community involvement throughout the year.”

The community can join Providence House at three child abuse prevention events in April:

- **Pinwheels for Prevention:** A national awareness campaign with an installation representing Cuyahoga County at Tower City Center, “Pinwheels for Prevention” will begin the first of April and run throughout the month. Volunteers will begin installing 16,461 pinwheels in Tower City, each representing a suspected case of child abuse or neglect, from March 29 to March 31. A great b-roll opportunity, the pinwheels will be assembled and placed strategically by volunteers to remind people of our shared responsibility to protect children. A press conference will be held at 11:30 a.m. on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Tower City to help achieve this goal. The campaign’s focus is on supporting community involvement, modifying caregiver behavior and expanding public policies that prevent child abuse and neglect. Those interested in volunteering should contact Robin Konscak at 216-225-5739 or robin@provhouse.org.
- **City2City 5K Race & 2k Family Fun Walk:** The efforts to raise community awareness continue at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, when the third annual City2City 5K Run / 2K Family Fun Walk will be held. This race helps promote the work of Providence House through fundraising and public awareness. It begins and ends at Tower City Center with a special turn around at the Providence House campus in Ohio City. Last year, more than 200 runners and walkers made their way across the Veterans’ Memorial Bridge to lend their support to Providence House. Those interested in participating should visit: <http://www.hermescleveland.com/roadracing/events/city2city.asp>.

- **Providence House 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Luncheon:** The month wraps up with the Providence House Luncheon, held on from noon to 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2010 in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel. The gala is held annually to thank supporters of Providence House and provide the public with an update on prevention efforts in Northeast Ohio. Those interested in attending should contact Emily Perry at Providence House, 216-651-5982 ext. 226. ).

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Since 1981, Providence House has provided quality, center-based, family focused residential care to over 6,000 infants and children in crisis, serving an average of nearly 200 children annually. Providence House protects at risk children, preventing child abuse and neglect, and helps preserve fragile families. Children are referred to Providence House by more than 25 community agencies, including area hospitals, drug treatment centers and women's shelters. Our programs and services are designed to offer families a free, voluntary alternative to safely remove their child from crisis and provide a safe, loving haven with quality early childcare services while offering support to the family through innovative programming, focused on Family Preservation.

For more information about Providence House, please visit [provhouse.org](http://provhouse.org).

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