

Child Abuse Prevention Month

COMTREA & CACECM

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. COMTREA and the Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri stand together in the fight to help end child abuse in Jefferson County. The CAC is dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of our children and their families. Providing a safe and trusting environment is vital for a child to openly share experiences about their possible abuse. Each CAC facility is designed for kids. Our staff are specially trained to communicate with children in a way that makes them feel safe and comfortable during this trying time.

During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, there are many ways to support the work of the CAC. Donations can be financial or specific items used in each CAC location. Parents can help prevent child sexual abuse by spreading awareness about these resources. By utilizing these resources, education through the Children's Advocacy Center page on COMTREA's Website, and using the information provided in this article, these are all ways to help prevent child abuse in the following counties; Franklin, Crawford, Gasconade, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Osage, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve and Washington.

Through the COMTREA website you can donate directly to the Children's Advocacy Center or view a list of items the Advocacy Centers needs here.

(<https://www.comtrea.org/services/community-services/childrens-advocacy-center>)

Parents and guardians are the appropriate people when it comes to teaching youth about child abuse prevention. Parents influence children's knowledge and values, teach children the facts, and have more of an impact over children's decisions about sex than their friends. Parents, it is best to start at an early age when it comes to the discussion of child abuse prevention. Make sure the discussions are developmentally appropriate and promote healthy sexuality by teaching respect and value of the body and gender.

For more information about how parents can help prevent child sexual abuse and more information on Child Abuse Prevention Month check out:

<https://www.nationalcac.org/social-media-toolkit-child-abuse-prevention-month/>

Help us spread awareness about Child Abuse Prevention Month. You can do this by sharing resources listed above or sharing this article. On COMTREA's website you can access additional information about the CAC, what they do, and how they help give children a safe space to tell their story. Also, follow the CACECM on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date on events and ways to get involved. Lastly, The CAC has their annual "Be a Voice Gala" coming up on April 29th, consider being a sponsor or register to attend the event. Sign up here: www.comtrea.org/events.