



# COUNTY OF LAKE

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

177 MAIN STREET  
PAINESVILLE, OHIO 44077-3402

SUZANNE CASAR, DIRECTOR

PHONE: 440-330-4002 FAX: (440) 330-4199

March 3, 2026

Dear Friends,

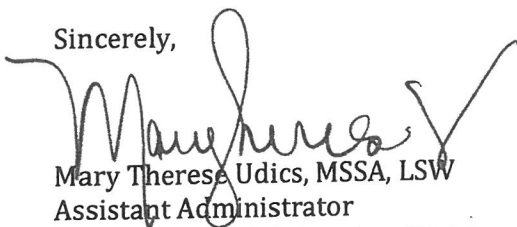
April is fast approaching, and once again we are reaching out to the Lake County community to ask for your support in keeping our children safe. In the spring of 1989, a concerned grandmother, Bonnie Finney of Norfolk, Virginia, took a courageous stand against child abuse following the tragic death of her three-year-old grandson, who had been severely beaten by those entrusted with his care. In response to this heartbreaking loss, she tied a symbolic blue ribbon to the antenna of her car as a visible pledge to involve others in the fight to end child abuse. What began as a local gesture of awareness and advocacy has since grown into a nationwide movement, with communities across the country wearing blue ribbons each April to show their commitment to preventing child abuse and protecting children.

Please join us in making this April a **Blue Ribbon Month**. Tie a blue ribbon on your car, wear a blue wristband or ribbon pin, and share the message of child abuse prevention with a friend or neighbor. Most importantly, get involved. Educate yourself, learn the warning signs, and report any concerns or suspicions. Together, we can create a safer community for every child.

In Lake County, we will commemorate National Child Abuse Prevention Month by passing out blue wristbands and educational materials to our partners and friends in the community. Additionally, April 8, 2026, is **Wear Blue to Work Day**. We encourage your staff members to wear blue on this date in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The Lake County Children Services Division provides blue wristbands for individuals and organizations to distribute. If you would like wristbands or if you would like additional information about child maltreatment or prevention, please reach out to Mary Udics at [mary.udics@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:mary.udics@jfs.ohio.gov). Enclosed you will find a flyer, a positive parenting calendar, and a coloring page. Please feel free to copy and share these with others. Thank you for your ongoing support of this very important cause.

Sincerely,



Mary Therese Udics, MSSA, LSW  
Assistant Administrator  
Children and Adult Services Division





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PAINESVILLE, OHIO 44077-3402

SUZANNE CASAR, DIRECTOR

PHONE (440) 350-4000 FAX (440) 350-4399

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