

News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County of Summit Declares April Child Abuse and Family Awareness Month

On Monday, April 1, 2019, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Summit County Council passed legislation declaring the month of April 2019 Child Abuse and Family Awareness Month in Summit County. The legislation, sponsored by Executive Shapiro and District 8 Council Member Paula Prentice, recognizes the value of raising awareness in the community about the importance of prevention and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

Summit County Children Services (SCCS) developed Child and Family Awareness Month over 30 years ago in an effort to increase awareness about child abuse and prevention. In support of this awareness campaign, SCCS promotes a month-long education, awareness and celebration of the family program that includes trainings, Wear Blue Day, and an appreciation breakfast.

“Every one of us can play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect,” said Executive Shapiro. “From becoming a foster parent or adopting a child to mentoring a child or donating to SCCS, we can all find a way to raise awareness and support families. Thank you to SCCS for their continued advocacy and leadership in our community on behalf of children and families.”

Below are SCCS-sponsored events throughout the month of April:

Tuesday, April 2 – 5:30-9 p.m.

Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Churches

The House of the Lord, 1650 Diagonal Road, Akron

This free three-hour training will be co-facilitated by two master's level social workers from SCCS. It is specially designed to help church leaders and lay members have a better understanding of child abuse and neglect precautions.

**Registration is required*

Wednesday, April 10

Wear Blue Day

Businesses, organizations and individuals are invited to participate in this state-wide program to help raise awareness of child abuse prevention by wearing blue on this day.

Tuesday, April 16 – 8 a.m.-Noon

Close-Up on Implicit Bias

Akron-Summit County Public Library, 60 S. High Street, Akron

Using an engaging and participatory structure, this session will equip attendees with a deeper understanding of our unconscious mental processing; the ways in which implicit associations impact our decision-making despite our good intentions; and what actions we can take to prevent and respond to the emergence of bias.

**Registration is required*

Tuesday, April 30 – 7:30-9 a.m.

10th Annual Appreciation Breakfast

St. George Family Center, 3204 Ridgewood Road, Akron

The Appreciation Breakfast is a “salute to those who care,” as a way to honor organizations, agencies, businesses, civic groups, families and individuals who have supported the children and families served by Summit County Children Services over the past year.

**Event is invitation only*

For additional event information and to register, please visit <http://www.summitkids.org/CommunityEducation/ChildandFamilyAwarenessMonth/tabid/94/Default.aspx> or call (330) 379-1994.

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