



children's home & aid

Every Child. Every Family. Thriving.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The 2023 Blue Bow National Child Abuse Prevention Month Event

Public Officials, Child Advocates Launch Awareness Campaign to Protect Illinois Children

(CHICAGO) – Children's Home & Aid, in partnership with Prevent Child Abuse America and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, will come together at the Blue Bow event for National Child Abuse Prevention month to recognize community partners and organizations that share the commitment to advancing the well-being of children by strengthening families. Mike Shaver, President & CEO of Children's Home & Aid, Melissa Merrick, Ph. D, President & CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America, and Dr. Melissa Manrique, Attending Physician at Lurie Children's, will speak about how we can most effectively prevent child abuse.

Elected officials and child advocates will gather on **April 12, 2023, from 1:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. at the Children's Home & Aid Mitzi Freidheim Englewood Child & Family Center, 1701 West 63rd Street, Chicago, IL 60636** for the 2023 Blue Bow National Child Abuse Prevention Event.

Additional speakers include Brenda Myers-Powell, co-founder of the Dreamcatcher Foundation, and Harold Green, community poet and storyteller. Attendees of the 2023 Blue Bow National Child Abuse Prevention Event, community leaders, children, and volunteers will tie Blue Bows and place Blue Pinwheels, the national symbol of child abuse prevention, outside of Mitzi Freidheim Englewood Child & Family Center. Event details can be found at <http://bit.ly/BlueBow2023>.

Child Abuse Prevention Month activities will be held throughout the state during the month of April. Just earlier this week, Lurie Children's launched [LCAST, an innovative app and screening tool](#) to help identify red flags for child abuse. The Blue Bow Campaign is supported by Children's Home & Aid and a committee of representatives from over 18 government and human service organizations. For information about these events, visit www.preventchildabuseillinois.org. For information about Children's Home & Aid parent support programs, visit [here](#).

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About Children's Home & Aid

Children's Home & Aid partners with more than 30,000 children, youth and families each year in 67 counties across Illinois providing services that strengthen families including parent support programs, early care and education, counseling and youth services. We advance the well-being of children by investing in families to disrupt the systemic and multi-generational cycle of racial, social, and economic inequality. More information about our programs and services can be found at <http://childrenshomeandaid.org>.

About Prevent Child Abuse America

Prevent Child Abuse America is the oldest and largest organization dedicated to the prevention of abuse and neglect of our nation's children. With a vision of a world in which children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed, PCA America provides help and hope to families and communities through our signature home visiting program, Healthy Families America, our nationwide chapter network, advocacy efforts and awareness campaigns of our evidence-based work.

About Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

In the 2022-2023 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of the best children's hospitals, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago continues to be the top pediatric hospital in Illinois. Lurie Children's provides superior pediatric care in a state-of-the-art hospital that offers the latest benefits and innovations in medical technology, family-friendly design and research through the Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute.

The hub for community health initiatives at Lurie Children's is the [Patrick M. Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities](#). The Magoon Institute facilitates partnerships and programs between Lurie Children's and the community to address root causes of health disparities and advance health equity for youth.