



This information is provided to you courtesy of St. Francois County Community Partnership and Project Sunlight

Your License to Care!

You can help prevent child abuse by proudly displaying the official Children's Trust Fund (CTF) license plate on your vehicle. All CTF plates feature the distinctive green child's hand prints logo and a "prevent child abuse" message.

CTF's goal is to reach 10,000 active CTF plates, which would equate to \$250,000 annually that would be distributed back into local prevention programs throughout the state and support CTF grant activities.

You do this...

Make an annual contribution of \$25 or more to CTF by sending a check or money order to:

Children's Trust Fund
P. O. Box 1641
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1641

Or make a credit card donation via the internet or by calling

1-888-826-KIDS (5437).

Your entire donation can be designated to your local license plate partner (St. Francois County Community Partnership) by providing their name or county on your check.

If you qualify for a two-year license registration, a \$50 minimum donation must be made to CTF. Contact your local Department of Revenue (DOR) for more information.

We'll do this...

CTF will send you 1) your "logo use authorization" statement (donation receipt), and 2) an application for personalized license plates.

For new personalized or stock plate requests...

Complete your application and send it along with your logo use authorization statement and the annual DOR \$15 plate fee to the Driver and Vehicle Services Bureau, P.O. Box 100, Jefferson City, MO 65105-0100 (573-751-4509).



You may also order or obtain a CTF stock plate by taking your application, logo use authorization statement, annual DOR \$15 plate fee, and any other required documents to your local license office.

Please note...

If you are acquiring a CTF plate for the first time, some DOR license offices accept CTF donations on site. At these locations, you may make your CTF donation and pay all other required fees with one check. To inquire about participating offices, please contact DOR or your local license office.

If you are **renewing your CTF plate**, you may make your CTF donation and pay all other required fees with one check at **any** DOR license office.

Finally...

DOR will notify you by mail when your plates are available and provide information about acquiring them at your local license bureau. All questions about processing and your application should be directed to DOR through your local license bureau.

Just so you know...

- You may order CTF plates at any time regardless of your current license plate expiration date. DOR will either exchange the new CTF plate for your surrendered plate or pro-rate your fees.
- If you currently have personalized plates, your 'message' can be transferred to the CTF plates.
- CTF plates allow 6 characters for a personalized message and 5 characters for the personalization of a disabled person's plate or motorcycle plates.
- Whether applying for or renewing personalized or stock CTF plates, an annual \$15 personalized plate fee is assessed. If renewing for two years, \$30 is due to DOR.



April is Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month

St. Francois County in the Year of 2008

(the latest statistics available from Department of Social Services)

- 1,007 calls to the abuse & neglect hotline,
- Average of 105 children per month in Children's Division custody

Child Abuse Information

Child abuse and neglect is a national problem which has increased to epidemic proportions in the U.S. More than almost 3 million reports of child abuse are made in the U.S. annually with hundreds of deaths related to child abuse reported each year. Experts estimate it is actually three times greater than reported.

Abuse robs children of the opportunity to develop healthy, trusting relationships with adults, contributes to low self-esteem, and impairs healthy psycho-social development. The effects of childhood abuse often last a lifetime.

During higher economic stress, child abuse and neglect cases rise while government resources have less resources to tackle the issues due to decreasing tax rate. Anyone in the community can help by offering to assist a neighbor who is working multiple jobs to try to make ends meet.



A percentage of the proceeds from CTF license plates benefits both Project Sunlight & the Community Partnership!



Project Sunshine—Creating A Brighter Tomorrow



April 30th is National Blue Sunday

Each year in April members of faith communities across America host an event called Blue Sunday. Blue Sunday is an awareness event focusing on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The event is named after the blue 'memorial ribbons' displayed on doors and worn on lapels in remembrance of the victims of child abuse and to show support for local prevention efforts.

Project Sunshine is coordinating efforts in St. Francois County inviting churches to participate in Blue Sunday on April 30th. Church leaders can use this day as an opportunity to educate their congregation about the issue and for focused prayer.

Some things a church can do on Blue Sunday is

- produce an informational bulletin insert,

- provide an educational display for church members,
- display/wear blue ribbons, or
- hold a special prayer vigil for victims of child abuse and those who rescue them.

Copy-ready bulletin inserts have been posted on our web site. Visit this page to download your copy: <http://www.sfccp.org/Blue%20Sunday.html>

You can visit the Educare Resource Center and use a die cut to make blue ribbons for your congregation.

You may call us at 431-3173 for more information or to request copy-ready materials for your congregation.

The Five R's of Prevention

Remember the Risk Factors:

Risk factors are greater for parents with:

- Economic, housing or personal problems
- Isolation from their families or communities
- Difficulty controlling anger or stress
- Physical or mental health issues
- A painful childhood themselves
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Unrealistic expectations or are inexperienced with children

Recognize the Warning Signs:

A child's behavior may signal abuse or neglect long before any change in physical appearance. Some of the signs may include:

- Nervous around adults,
- aggression toward adults/other children
- Inability to stay awake or to concentrate for extended periods
- Sudden, dramatic changes in personality or activities
- Knowledge about sex that is unusual for the child's stage of development

- Frequent/unexplained bruises or injuries
- Poor hygiene or dress that is inappropriate for the weather

Report Suspected Abuse or Neglect:

Call 1-800-392-3738 This is a 24-hour toll-free telephone line for reporting suspected child abuse in Missouri.

Raise the Issue:

By educating yourself and others you can help your community prevent child abuse and neglect from happening in the first place.

Reach Out:

Anything you do to support kids and parents can help reduce the stress that often leads to abuse and neglect.

- Be a friend to a parent or child you know. Get to know your neighbors.
- Donate or lend used clothing, furniture or toys.
- Volunteer your time and money for programs in your church and community that support children and families.