

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Supporting Families Together Association

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1,800 Wisconsin Adults Prepare to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect this April

Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) is proud to announce the kick-off of our fourth annual Small Change Makes a BIG Difference Teach-a-Thon; a statewide push for child abuse and neglect prevention trainings.

Madison, Wis., (April 1, 2015) – Last year SFTA and our member Child Care Resource and Referral agencies trained over 1,600 parents, early childhood professionals, and community members in child abuse and neglect prevention. This year we invite adults across Wisconsin to help us top that number at 1,800, and to do their part to prevent child abuse and neglect by participating in our Small Change Makes a BIG Difference Teach-a-Thon.

"The goal of the Teach-a-Thon is to build awareness through trainings and information sharing and prepare adults to take action regarding child abuse and neglect prevention," said Jill Hoiting, SFTA Co-Director of Programs & External Relations. "We know that early experiences set the stage for a child's life. By training more adults in strategies to prevent and put a stop to child abuse and neglect, we are setting more children up for success."

Although there has been a 5.5 percent drop overall in Child Protective Services (CPS) maltreatment reports in the past ten years, 4,886 Wisconsin children were still known victims of maltreatment in 2013, according to the most recent Department of Children and Families Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect report. The need for child abuse and neglect prevention knowledge and support is still very much present in Wisconsin, and everyone plays a role.

"Whether you are a parent, a caregiver, a hospital worker, a police officer, or even the teller at a bank, you can in some way be a part of child abuse and neglect prevention," emphasized Hoiting. "We all have a child that touches our lives either directly or indirectly. The more adults that know how to look for, prevent, and safely react to the signs of child abuse and neglect, the more children have the chance to lead happy, healthy lives."

Teach-a-Thon trainings are held throughout Wisconsin throughout the month of April, in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Trainings are open to the public and are typically low cost or free. Those interested in participating in upcoming Teach-a-Thon trainings in their area should [contact their local CCR&R](#) or stay tuned to the SFTA Teach-a-Thon [web page](#). If you are interested in hosting a training at your Wisconsin business or organization, please e-mail kelly@supportingfamiliesstogether.org or call SFTA directly at 1 (888) 713.KIDS. If you are interested in contributing towards SFTA's work on behalf of Wisconsin children and families please visit our [invest webpage](#).

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Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) is a non-profit organization funded by public and private entities to support and implement a variety of early childhood focused programs and services. As Wisconsin's statewide member association for organizations and individuals committed to making every early childhood a great one, we envision an environment in which all children have the opportunity to reach their highest potential and all adults understand their role and responsibilities to children. Learn more about SFTA at www.supportingfamiliesstogether.org.