

Clarence H. Carter, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 1, 2013**

**MEDIA CONTACT**  
**Nicole Moon**  
**602-542-4296**  
[NMoon@azdes.gov](mailto:NMoon@azdes.gov)

## **April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

*Prevention is key in the battle against child abuse and neglect*

**PHOENIX** – The Department of Economic Security (DES) today recognized the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year’s theme “Protective Factors Make Families Strong” emphasizes how Arizona communities can help educate and support parents in raising their children.

“It’s important to highlight the crucial role families and members of their communities play in protecting the children of Arizona,” said Director Clarence Carter. “The best thing we can do to prevent child abuse and neglect is to focus on awareness and ways to build and promote parenting habits that protect children.”

In FY 2012, Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) received more than 40,000 reports of child abuse and neglect, involving more than 64,000 children. The majority of these allegations are due to neglect.

“Arizona’s children deserve to grow up in a safe, healthy loving and nurturing environment,” said Director Carter. “That is why it is so important that we get these messages out there to help the community rally around our families and prevent abuse before it happens.”

DES employees held a special kick-off event with a group of community stakeholders today to discuss the community’s role in preventing child abuse. The agency, through the Regional Child Abuse Prevention Councils, will help support several other events across the state throughout the month to raise awareness around prevention.

### **Phoenix Area Events:**

**Family Day:** The Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Coalition Family Day will take place on Saturday April 6, 2013, at Kiwanis Park in Tempe from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Fire trucks, ambulances and police cars will be displayed. Several child abuse prevention speakers will be on hand. There will also be informational booths for parents and children to obtain helpful information. This event is sponsored by First Things First.

**Child Trauma Summit - Creating Safe Environments Panel Discussion:** This televised discussion will take place at KAET PBS 8 in Phoenix on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, from 8:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. and will feature several national keynote speakers.

### **Flagstaff Area Events:**

**Field of Hope Memorial:** The Field of Hope Memorial will be held April 4 through April 7, 2013, on the Coconino County Courthouse Lawn with a special flag dedication and service Friday, April 5 at 5:30 p.m. Each flag recognizes the 71 children who died in Arizona in 2012 due to child abuse and neglect. This event is sponsored by the Coconino Child Abuse Prevention Council.

### **Lake Havasu Area Events**

**"Spike Out Child Abuse" Beach Volleyball Tournament:** Sixteen teams will participate in the "Spike Out for Child Abuse" Beach Volleyball Tournament to be held on April 20, 2013. The event will also include a Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Fair with food and drinks, children's activities and informational booths. This event is sponsored by the Lake Havasu City Child Abuse Prevention Council.

### **Sedona – Cottonwood Area Events:**

**The Annual Children's Celebration:** The Annual Children's Celebration will be held at the Cottonwood Civic Center on April 20th, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Verde's Kudos for Kids Summer Edition 2013 will debut and as many as 35 vendors will supply free activities for families and children. This year's Children's Celebration will also highlight a bike rodeo by the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office, including star appearances by Deputy Do Right from Yavapai County Sheriff's Office and Sparky the Fire Dog from Cottonwood Fire Department. This event is sponsored by the Verde Valley and Sedona Child Abuse Prevention Council.

**The Annual City of Cottonwood and Verde Valley Softball Tournament:** The Annual City of Cottonwood and Verde Valley Softball tournament in honor of Child Abuse Prevention will be held on April 27, 2013. Food, drinks and prizes will be awarded as well as a round robin event to kick off softball season in the Verde Valley. This event is sponsored by the Verde Valley and Sedona Child Abuse Prevention Council.

### **Other events:**

**Pinwheels for Prevention:** Pinwheels for Prevention will be displayed at local elementary schools in Kingman, Lake Havasu City and Sierra Vista during the entire month of April and are sponsored by the Kingman, Lake Havasu City and Sierra Vista Child Abuse Prevention Councils.

For more information on these events, please contact the [sponsoring Child Abuse Prevention Council](#).

###