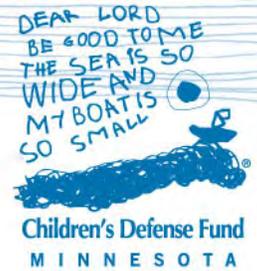


10-10-10 March for Children and Youth Because *All Children and Youth Need Nurturing Families*



Children need caring supportive families to keep them safe from harm and ensure their growth and healthy development.

Child maltreatment can take many forms, including emotional, physical, sexual, neglect or endangerment. Chronic maltreatment can permanently damage a child's developing brain and cause physical and psychological problems throughout their lifetime.

Child neglect, not having basic needs met, is the most common form of maltreatment, making up 70% of the substantiated cases.

- In 2009, 5,400 Minnesota children were confirmed in cases of abuse or neglect.
- The median age for victims in 2009 was 6 years old.
- Parents/primary care providers make up 70 percent of those identified as abusers
- While White children make up a greater percentage of maltreatment victims, there are a greater proportion of children of color in the child welfare system.

Child maltreatment has long-term developmental impacts.

- Children who have been abused have a difficult time concentrating, developing trusting relationships and expressing their feelings appropriately.
- Constant disruptions from interventions, such as out of home placement, can often add to the trauma of maltreatment.
- Infants and toddlers have the highest child maltreatment rate of any age group.

When living with parents is not possible, it is imperative that children find a permanent loving family to nurture them into adulthood.

- 6,756 Minnesota children lived in Foster Care in 2009.
- 1,353 Minnesota children waiting for a permanent family.

Prevention of Child Maltreatment is Possible.

Creating safe homes and communities requires the commitment of every adult. Every parent needs access to child development resources and parent support resources. Crisis nurseries and home visiting programs have served to prevent abuse. Community resources for children like parks and community centers provide respite for parents and healthy activities for children. Knowing the signs of neglect and abuse can lead to early intervention.

Question for Candidates:

If elected, what will your strategy for child abuse prevention be and how will you implement it?