

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

➔ 17th Annual Permanency Conference



Supporting adoptees, adoptive parents and foster parents is important work. Our annual conference prepares professionals with inspiration, new skills and techniques to better serve our Alabama families. Join us for three days of focused training to meet the

needs of foster and adopted children and their families.

This conference is for anyone who serves foster and adopted children in any capacity and is perfect for DHR staff, service providers, and clinicians, as well as foster and adoptive parents. We provide a rich experience filled with relevant, engaging, and practical workshops to help participants feel more confident and hopeful in the work they do, delivered in a relaxed setting with self-care opportunities so participants feel appreciated and re-energized as they return to serving our most vulnerable populations.

We offer 13 contact hours for social workers and counselors which include several clinical hours and 3 hours of ethics. Most workshops will also qualify for clinical hours too. Register today!



Blue Pinwheels for Child Abuse Awareness Month
Photo Credit: Getty Images

CAS HELPS COMMUNITIES BUILD BETTER FUTURES FOR ALABAMA'S CHILDREN: CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

By John Stone, CAS Director of Advancement

Each year Children's Aid Society of Alabama joins dozens of other organizations throughout our state – and thousands throughout the nation – in recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month. The 2023 theme of this important month is **“Building Together: Prevention in Partnership.”** Throughout Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month, organizations like Children's Aid Society, Prevent Child Abuse America and our community partner, Children's Trust Fund are using the metaphor of building blocks and construction to reinforce the concept that prevention cannot and does not happen alone. Communities must build positive futures together in partnership.

At CAS, each day is an opportunity to build the foundation for our future. We partner with groups around the state and nation to bring innovative, experience-based programs to Alabama focused on child welfare, family education and – in this case – child abuse awareness and prevention. One of CAS' signature programs is EPIC (Effective Parenting Instruction Course) aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect by providing parenting education and support to underserved mothers, fathers, and other caregivers with high risk factors for child maltreatment. Classes are held at locations throughout Central Alabama including Jefferson County Family Court, the Lovelady Center, Children's Aid Society, and various churches throughout Jefferson and Shelby counties.

Sometimes, building a better future means deconstructing the past. Proactively addressing inequity and injustice allows us to support safe, stable, and nurturing environments. The EPIC program supports underserved populations including diverse races and ethnicities, Spanish-speakers, and pregnant and parenting young people. These populations are often vulnerable because of limited access to resources. We work with partners across the spectrum to ensure that all populations are served, and that all participants are educated on the signs, symptoms, and effects of child abuse.

➔ We Are Hiring Camp APAC & Camp Life Staff



Camp APAC is an annual event for adopted children ages 12 to 18, along with their siblings. Camp Life serve older youth in Alabama's foster care ages 14 -21. We're searching for energetic people to work with us at any, or all of these enriching summer camp experiences! Applications are open

to anyone ages 19 and above. Staff members will be paid for each camp they work. This is ideal for college students, retirees, coaches, educators, youth leaders...anyone with a heart to serve and a spirit of fun. If you have any questions, please contact our camp coordinator, **Valerie Anderson**, vanderson@childremsaid.org.

➔ Sponsor a Grad in Alabama's Foster Care



Our Annual Graduation Celebration will honor Alabama's graduates in foster care on May 6, 2023. With your help, we'll gift our graduates with a brand new duffel bag, filled with new school supplies, toiletries, linens, and household items. Necessities for the next milestone

on their journey to a successful life of independence. Your donation of \$100 will gift one graduate with this thoughtful gift. We need your help to reach our \$10,000 goal to present 100 graduates with this "Grad Bag." Please [make your secure donation today](#).



John Stone

DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT



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What we now know is that the ripple effects of the pandemic permanently changed the social, cultural, and economic landscape of the United States. While we are still adapting to and understanding these changes and their repercussions for child abuse and neglect prevention, we cannot pause in our fight to prevent child abuse. The risk to our nation's children for experiencing child abuse and neglect has perhaps never been higher due to the extreme stress and uncertainty that we've lived with for the past several years. From uncertain childcare arrangements to employment, income and health concerns by parents, children are experiencing immense and challenging life circumstances. Community support and partnerships can help lighten the burden on families.

How can you help us at Children's Aid Society? Raise awareness in partnership with CAS and Prevent Child Abuse America by sharing our social media posts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), or by planting a pinwheel in your garden, yard, or community greenway. Pinwheels are a visual reminder of a world where children group up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed. We at CAS are happy to promote this campaign, and encourage you to visit <https://pinwheels.preventchildabuse.org> to request your pinwheel today. You can also donate directly to Children's Aid Society of Alabama online at www.childrensaid.org and support programs like EPIC. Lastly, on April 19th, we invite you to participate in Prevent Child Abuse America's nationwide digital advocacy day. Children's Aid Society of Alabama will be participating and encouraging our supporters to advocate for child abuse prevention support at local, state, and national levels.

With your help, we can continue to reinforce the belief that child abuse and neglect have no place in our society. We can continue building partnerships to bring education, training, and awareness to this issue, and hopefully to bring closure to the pain and anguish countless children face in homes of abuse and uncertainty. By working together and building together, we can construct communities that build healthy families and loving homes.

Visit www.childrensaid.org to learn more.

April 11, 2023

Madison County AFG

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month

6:00 pm, in the Wesley Center at First United Methodist Church

(FREE to attend, childcare is provided)
Contact Kendra Alley, kalley@childrensaid.org



April 20, 2023

Statewide Virtual AFG

Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month

8:00 pm, a private Zoom link will be sent by email to interested parties.

Contact Buddy Renahan, brenahan@childrensaid.org to be added to the email list.



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