

UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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News Release

April Proclaimed "Child Abuse Prevention Month" and "Sexual Assault Awareness Month"

April 22, 2014, Monroe, NC – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Union County.

Child abuse, neglect and sexual violence are community problems affecting the current and future quality of life in our community. The Union County Division of Social Services accepted 1,293 reports of child abuse representing over 2,851 children in 2013. A total of 731 children, adults and family members, impacted by child abuse, sexual assault and victims of other crimes, were served through Safe Alliance's Clinical and Victim Advocacy services including The Tree House Children's Advocacy Center during FY 2013.

Of the children served by the Tree House Children's Advocacy Center in 2013, 99 percent of those children were sexually abused by a trusted relative or other known person and 30 percent of the children served were sexually abused by other children.

Child abuse and neglect not only cause immediate harm to children but are also proven to increase the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, health problems and risky behavior thereby increasing the cost of community support services.

You can help stop child abuse, neglect and sexual violence. In North Carolina everyone is a mandated reporter. Anyone who has cause to believe that a child may be abused has a legal duty to make a report. If you know or suspect that a child is being harmed, call Union County DSS at 704-296-4300 to report your concerns or to get information related to abuse, neglect and dependency of a child.