



Development & Community Relations Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARE HOUSE OF THE PEE DEE SOWS SEEDS OF HOPE THROUGH PINWHEEL GARDENS THIS APRIL

Local Children's Advocacy Center Shines a Light on the Realities of Abuse during Child Abuse Prevention Month



FLORENCE, SC (February, 29, 2024) – April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and the CARE House of the Pee Dee is determined to shine a light on the realities of child abuse through Pinwheel Gardens and other awareness initiatives. Nationally, pinwheels are a symbol of child abuse prevention as they conjure up the idea of a happy and carefree childhood – something that every child deserves.

For this Children's Advocacy Center, the premise is simple - supporters can order their own Pinwheel Garden to display at their homes, businesses or faith communities (on a lawn or in a raised bed) where they will be visible to others in the community. Displays include 75 pinwheels, a sign communicating support for child abuse victims throughout the Pee Dee along with instructions for "planting" the garden. To spread the seeds of awareness even further, supporters are encouraged to share pictures of their gardens on social media using the hashtags: #ChildAbusePreventionMonth #Pinwheel Garden #CAREHouseHeroes

“Our goal is to paint the town blue - with pinwheels! We want children and families who have been impacted by abuse to know that their community supports them and for those who may not be aware of these realities, this is an opportunity to develop a curiosity to learn more”, says Alice Curry Gallego, Development & Community Relations Director with the CARE House.

According to national data, nearly 700,000 children are abused each year and close to 2,000 lose their lives as a result. Even after abuse stops, these adverse childhood experiences can have lasting negative impacts on health, well-being and other opportunities – but child abuse is preventable. As an accredited Children’s Advocacy Center, the CARE House works in partnership with many different agencies – including law enforcement and the Department of Social Services – to investigate allegations of child abuse and provide supportive services such as evidence based counseling and advocacy to alleged victims and their families. Prevention and community education are also integral components to the work of the CARE House.

The deadline to order a Pinwheel Garden is March 20th for pick-up or delivery the final week in March. Displays are \$100 each and orders can be placed on the organization’s website at www.thecarehouse.com/pinwheel-garden.

For more information about the CARE House of the Pee Dee or other Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, visit www.thecarehouse.com or contact Alice Curry Gallego by email at agallego@thecarehouse.com or by phone (843) 629-0236.

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The CARE House of the Pee Dee, as a Children’s Advocacy Center, is committed to the mission of promoting help, hope and healing in a nurturing environment to child abuse victims and their families through supportive services and prevention.

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