



Visiting Nurse Association
of Central Jersey

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VNA of Central Jersey Reaches Out to Parents During Child Abuse Prevention Month

Creating a 'Pinwheels for Prevention' Garden helps families focus on growing happy, healthy kids

Red Bank, NJ, April 2009 – In observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Special Child Health Services and WIC Nutritional Program invited children and parents to create a 'Pinwheels for Prevention' Garden. The campaign was designed as a fun activity to encourage family-strengthening initiatives and provide information and resources to help children have happy, healthy childhoods.

This month and throughout the year, VNACJ encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Red Bank a better place for families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect and strengthen families and communities.

“Economic pressures put added stress on families that can increase the risk of abuse and neglect,” said Mary Remhoff, manager, Special Child Health Services at VNACJ. “We want families to understand the importance of healthy parent-child interactions such as early reading and positive constructive play.”

“But we also want them to know that they don’t have to do it alone,” Ms. Remhoff added. “There are many resources, like VNACJ, within our community where they can turn for help.”

Research shows that five important factors are present in healthy families. Promoting these factors is among the most effective ways to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents

About VNACJ

Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, now in its 96th year of service, is a nonprofit provider of in-home health care and hospice services. The organization offers extensive community-based health and wellness services throughout its service area of Middlesex,

Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington and Gloucester counties. For more information about child abuse prevention programs or VNACJ resources for parents and children in need, call 800-862-3330 or visit www.vnacj.org.

Photo Caption

Susan Sanchez, Program Associate, VNACJ Special Child Health Services helps children from VNACJ WIC program plant a “Pinwheel for Prevention” Garden to promote happy, healthy childhoods in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month