



National Mentoring Month: The Power of Mentorship

January is National Mentoring Month. It is the perfect time to reflect on the profound impact that mentors can have on the lives of children. Guidance, support, and inspiration offered by a mentor can play a crucial role in shaping the future of a young person. **Whether it's a teacher, a coach, or a community member, a mentor can make all the difference in a child's life.**

Mentorship provides children with a strong foundation for personal growth and success. When a child has a mentor, they gain not

only a trusted guide but also someone who believes in their potential. This relationship helps children gain confidence, build self-esteem, and navigate life's challenges.

A mentor's influence can also help children build key life skills, including resilience, problem-solving, and goal setting. They can provide a safe space for children to ask questions, make mistakes, and learn from those mistakes. Such guidance can be particularly critical during the times when children face academic pressures or social challenges.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

For many children, especially those in underserved communities, access to mentorship can be a game-changer. Mentors may offer exposure to new perspectives, interests and hobbies, and even new experiences that might otherwise be out of

reach. They can provide a much-needed sense of stability and consistency, which can also produce a sense of support or encouragement for children.

Research shows that mentored youth are more likely to graduate high school, attend college, and have successful careers. They are also less likely to engage in risky behaviors and more likely to develop positive relationships with their peers. In short, mentorship helps children unlock their full potential.

A CALL TO ACTION

National Mentoring Month is a nationwide campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of mentorship and encouraging individuals to become mentors. It's a time to underscore and highlight the critical role mentors play in shaping the future of children and to inspire others to play a role and get involved.

Organizations across the country are actively recruiting mentors, hosting events, and celebrating the life-changing impact that mentoring can have. It's a reminder that even small acts of guidance and encouragement can leave lasting impressions on a child's life.



As we honor National Mentoring Month, let us remember that every child deserves the chance to thrive. Mentorship is a powerful tool for change. When we invest in young people, we are not just helping them succeed — we are building stronger, more resilient communities for tomorrow. **Whether you mentor a child or support a mentoring program, your involvement can make all the difference.**



PA BLUE RIBBON
CHAMPIONS
for **SAFE KIDS**

APRIL 2 2025

Flag Planting

9:00am

3rd & State Streets in Harrisburg, PA

Award Ceremony

10:30am

Pennsylvania's Capitol Building Main Rotunda



NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH | APRIL 2025

Join Us in Raising Awareness Across the Commonwealth This April!

Throughout April, PFSA will host events and activities to raise awareness about child abuse prevention as part of **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**. Our events and activities will not only elevate the ongoing work that our organization and child advocates are undertaking, but also educate participants so they feel empowered to protect Pennsylvania's children. From hosting in-person events to engaging virtually, we invite you to work with us and help **#ProtectPAKids!**

FLAG PLANTING ON THE GROUNDS OF THE CAPITOL IN HARRISBURG, PA

On April 2, PFSA will once again sponsor this in-person event. From Front Street to the steps of the Capitol, PFSA staff, board of directors, statewide and local advocates, officials, and corporate supporters will plant 4,720 blue flags to represent the number of substantiated

child abuse cases and 57 black flags to represent the number of child deaths due to child abuse in Pennsylvania over one year.



PA BLUE RIBBON CHAMPIONS FOR SAFE KIDS AWARD CEREMONY *in the Main Rotunda of the Capitol Complex in Harrisburg, PA*

During our annual **PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids Award Ceremony** on **April 2**, PFSA will honor four individuals from across the Commonwealth who have gone the extra mile to **#ProtectPAKids**. These individuals will be recognized as our PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids due to their exceptional contributions to prevent child abuse and neglect throughout Pennsylvania. These individuals were nominated by their peers, colleagues, and supervisors because they went above and beyond the call of duty to protect Pennsylvania's children.

Stay tuned for more information about events throughout April!



Welcome to Our New CBCAP Network Member Agencies!

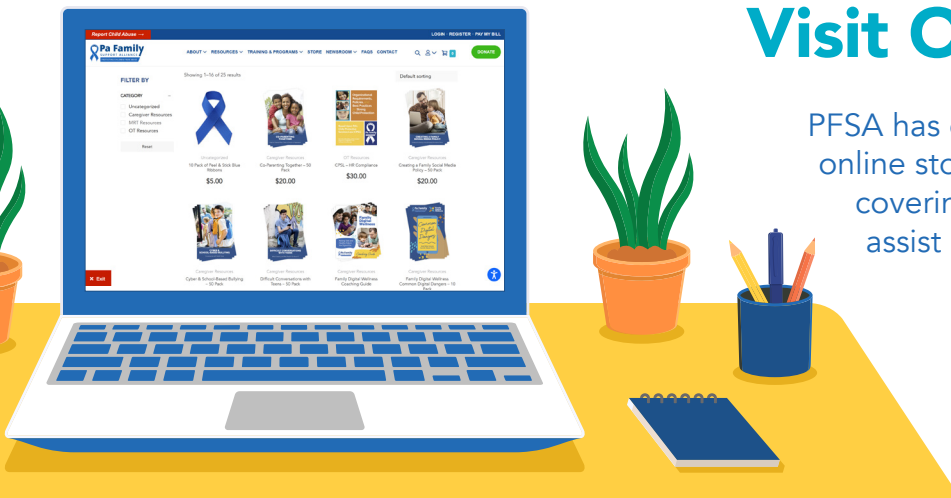
PFSA welcomes a new member of the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network: **The Salvation Army – Sharon (PA)**. PFSA is proud to partner and collaborate with diverse, dedicated, and committed organizations that advance the important work of preventing child abuse and neglect. Thank you for your commitment and dedication!

To find out more about **CBCAP Network** benefits or to learn more about becoming a CBCAP Network member, **visit our website**.




Visit Our Online Store!

PFSA has educational resources available in our online store. You can find informative materials covering a wide range of topics designed to assist caregivers, parents, and professionals in an effort to protect children. Visit pafsa.org/store to learn more!



Follow along with us!

 **PA Family Support Alliance**
@ProtectPAKids

 **PFSA**
@pafamilysupportalliance

 **PA Family Support Alliance**
@pa-family-support-alliance

 **PA Family Support Alliance**
@PAFamilySupport



UPCOMING PFSA TRAININGS

Families in Recovery (FiR) New Facilitator Training

This research-based program is a great resource for parents, guardians, and caretakers recovering from substance use disorder. The program aims to teach healthy coping and parenting skills while balancing the needs of recovery.

New FiR facilitators will be fully prepared to implement the program and provide training after attending a two-day session that covers content, education, and implementation of the curriculum. FiR facilitators come together during training to share program implementation experience, ideas, and insights. All organizations interested in implementing FiR are required to enter into a contract with PFSA and participate in the evaluation requirements of the program. Contracts include ongoing technical assistance, program development, facilitator calls, and assistance with data collection.

Dates: April 22 & 23, 2025 (*virtual*)

Time: 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
(*half-hour lunch break*)

Cost: Contact PFSA's Prevention Services Manager, Justin Donofrio (jdonofrio@pafsa.org), for paperwork or to ask questions.

Read Our Blog

Our blog is the best way to get timely information on ways to help stop child abuse, recent staff developments, and prevention strategies. Read more at pafsa.org/blog.

Mandated Reporter Training

PFSA has several options for mandated reporter training for staff and volunteers. We provide certificates to participants and, upon request, will upload confirmation of the training to the Departments of State or Education for CE fulfillments under Act 31 and/or Act 48. CLEs are also available for attorneys.

LIVE IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL

Cost: Free

Register here for a virtual session.

INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND

Cost: \$30

Sign up here to take any time.

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

This is an opportunity for organizations to develop their own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program for employees on child abuse recognition and reporting.

Dates: April 23 & 24, 2025 (*virtual*)

Time: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
(*half-hour lunch break*)

Cost: \$1,000 per trainer entering into a three-year contract with PFSA. Email Haven Evans, Director of Programs (hevans@pafsa.org), for paperwork or to ask questions.

#ProtectPAKids

Help us support the families and communities across Pennsylvania by donating to PFSA today. Your gift will help PFSA continue to deliver successful training, education, and ongoing support to PA families and children.

