

# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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## **Preventing child abuse and neglect is everyone's responsibility**

The safety of Nebraska children has always been a priority for Panhandle residents, personally and professionally – not just because it is the right thing to do, but also for the long-term prosperity of our state.

“All citizens share the responsibility of preventing child abuse and neglect before it ever occurs,” Kim Engel, director with Panhandle Public Health District said. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

“Child abuse and neglect can be prevented by making sure each family and community has the knowledge, resources, skills and support they need to provide a healthy, safe and nurturing environment for all children,” Engel added. “Effective child abuse prevention efforts succeed in part because of partnerships created between state, regional and local health and social service agencies, faith and medical communities, schools, civic organizations, law enforcement and the business community.”

PPHD's board of directors have proclaimed the month of April 2012 as Child Abuse Prevention month and call upon everyone to support their efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. “We all have the power to protect a child. If you suspect that a child is being abuse or neglected. Call the anonymous Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline at 1-800-652-1999,” Engel concluded.

For additional information about child abuse prevention, visit [pphd.org](http://pphd.org) or call PPHD at 308-487-3600 or toll free at 877-218-2490. The purpose of the Panhandle Public Health District is to educate the region it serves about the prevention of epidemics, spread of contagious diseases, injury, illness and disability. The district is charged with promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors. They promote the quality and accessibility of health services and protection against environmental hazards. Through education, protection and promotion of these issues, the Panhandle Public Health District believes the quality of life of the residents they serve can be greatly improved.