



11th Anniversary of GO BLUE LUBBOCK COUNTY April-Child Abuse Awareness Month

South Plains Coalition for Child
Abuse Prevention
www.cherishspchildren.org

The Story of the Blue Ribbon

In 1989, a grandmother named Bonnie Finney from Norfolk, Virginia tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her van and began driving around town *"to make people wonder"*. The story she told to inquisitive community members was tragic. It was about the abuse and neglect of her grandchildren at the hands of their parents, which ultimately resulted in the brutal death of her grandson and the injury of her granddaughter.

"I tied a blue ribbon on my van to make people ask-why the blue ribbon?" Bonnie would answer, "I never intend to forget the color of bruises on the battered bodies of my grandchildren. The way my grandson's tiny body looked as it was discovered wrapped in a bloody sheet, stuffed in a toolbox and dumped. The way my granddaughter looked after being severely beaten, with her little hand burned from the tip of her tiny fingers to her wrists. The blue ribbon serves as a constant reminder to me to fight for the protection of children. I should have done more—our community should have done more."

Bonnie's grassroots efforts started a national movement, with her Blue Ribbon becoming the International Symbol for Child Abuse Prevention and April designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month.

In the last decade, abuse and neglect has affected over 1,000 Lubbock County children *annually*, the majority of the confirmed victims were age 5 and under .

**Calendar of
GO BLUE LUBBOCK COUNTY EVENTS**
Participate in any of these events during April
National Child Abuse Awareness Month

Go Blue Lubbock -11th Anniversary T-shirts

On sale thru March 15, 2024, Online ordering link:
https://stores.inksoft.com/go_blue_campaign_/shop/home

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 -10:00 AM

Blue Ribbon Tying Ceremony

Main Entrance -Covenant Children's Hospital - 4000 24th St.

Blue Lights will illuminate the trees on campus all month.

For more info: kaci.thompson@stjoe.org

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 - 9:00 AM

GO BLUE LUBBOCK COUNTY KICKOFF

Lubbock Chamber of Commerce

1500 Broadway - San Jacinto Room - 2nd Floor

Includes presentation of Cherish the Children Award 2024

Thursday, April 4, 2024 -12:00 PM

Pinwheel Ceremony

UMC Children's Hospital - 602 Indiana

For more info: erica.allen@umchealthsystem.com

Thursday-Saturday, April 4-6, 2024

ABC Rodeo - Benefitting Lubbock Boys & Girls Clubs

HOCKLEY COUNTY MALLET EVENT CENTER & ARENA,

2320 SOUTH US-385, LEVELLAND, TX 79336.

Child Abuse Awareness Bracelets will be given out.

For tickets & info: www.abcrodeo.com

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 - 11:30 AM

Early Learning Centers-Champions for Children Luncheon

Fiber Max Center

Contact Lena Scaff at lena.scaff@elclubbock.org or

Phone: 806-765-9981

Friday, April 19, 2024 - 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

11th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference

(Virtual- Live Stream)

presented by Covenant Children's Hospital & South Plains

Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention

For registration and conference info:

<https://www.facebook.com/southplainsccap>

Friday, April 19 , 2024 - 1:00 PM-4:00PM

Children's Advocacy Center - Stand Up for Kids

at Golf Suites - 6909 Marsha Sharp Freeway

Contact Derek Danner at ddanner@safeplace4kids.org

Phone: 806-740-0251

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Voice of Hope

STEP INTO HOPE Awareness Walk

Safety City-42nd & Avenue U

For info or to register: www.voiceofhopetexas.org