



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2018

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**St. Charles County Officials Respond to Child Abuse, Neglect
with Simple Prevention Strategy for Community**

Child abuse and neglect affect every community in Missouri. In 2017, 290 children in St. Charles County experienced some form of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse and/or neglect that—without proper intervention—will adversely impact their future. In 2016, 228 children experienced the same intrusive treatment by adults they should have been able to trust. With help from the community, St. Charles County is committed to protecting the lives of its youngest residents and one day ending child abuse.

On April 17, in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, local officials will address the need for increased awareness of the effects of child maltreatment and share how to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Speaking up for abused and neglected children is critical, as unreported cases could result in a reported child death. A special pinwheel garden will be planted by local law enforcement and dedicated in honor of the 290 children proven abused and neglected in 2017.

WHAT: Press Conference and Pinwheel Garden Dedication honoring 290 children proven abused and neglected in 2017

WHO: St. Charles County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
St. Charles County Police Department

WHEN: 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 17, 2018

WHERE: St. Charles County Executive Office Building
100 North Third Street, St. Charles, MO 63301 (outdoor lawn facing Jefferson Street)

SPEAKERS: **Steve Ehlmann, St. Charles County Executive**
Tim Lohmar, St. Charles County Prosecuting Attorney
Chief David Todd, St. Charles County Police Department
A survivor of child abuse

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