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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **AdventHealth Plants Pinwheel Garden to Mark Child Abuse Prevention Month and Highlight Ways to Protect Children**

**Mar. 29, 2024; HENDERSONVILLE, N.C.** – April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year pinwheel gardens like the one you will find on the front lawn of AdventHealth Hendersonville are blooming to support the Prevent Child Abuse America's Pinwheels for Prevention® theme of "Building a Hopeful Future, Together." AdventHealth plants the Pinwheel Garden every year to catch people's eyes and spark conversations about how each of us can help protect children in our community.

*Building a Hopeful Future, Together* means encouraging our community, families, friends and neighbors to create a nurturing and supportive environment for children and families.

PreventChildAbuse.org explains this year's theme highlights the crucial connection between a happy childhood and a hopeful future.

Everyone in our community can help promote safe childhoods and shine a light that can brighten the future for children. We can do this by increasing awareness of the impact of abuse, providing resources and supporting policies that support children and families.

AdventHealth Hendersonville is a long-time partner of Safelight, Hope & Healing for Families and provides the medical care services for victims of child abuse at the Safelight Child Advocacy Center. AdventHealth is honored to provide a certified physician assistant who cares for these young victims.

"We see children who have experienced various forms of trauma. Anecdotally, many of the children we see are also exposed to significant substance misuse and/or violence within their homes," explains Meredith Harding-Bremner, PA-C, AdventHealth Provider at Safelight Child Advocacy Center. "As a community, it is critical that we provide support for parents and caregivers to overcome these challenges and provide the best possible environment for their children."

AdventHealth invites the media to join us for this special pinwheel planting event to help expand the conversation about child abuse prevention.

### **2024 Pinwheel Garden for Child Abuse Prevention Month Planting**

**Monday, April 1, 2024**

**11 am**

Front Lawn, Near Main Hospital Entrance

AdventHealth Hendersonville

100 Hospital Drive

Hendersonville

Please text Victoria Dunkle if you are able to attend this event. 828-209-8570

The pinwheel is the national symbol for child abuse prevention. Each year the pinwheel garden at AdventHealth draws attention to child abuse and the various forms it takes - including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as online sexual exploitation. The gardens help create opportunities for conversations about the risk factors that can lead to child abuse and neglect.

"The pinwheels remind us that childhood should be fun, whimsical, and carefree. Children should be able to find wonder in simple joys, such as watching colors spin on a pinwheel," shares Harding-Bremner. "Child maltreatment disrupts such a childhood in significant ways. Not only does this impact the physical and emotional well-being of the child, but it affects our community as a whole. Children who experience abuse and neglect are at a significantly higher risk of experiencing not only mental health challenges, but chronic illness. This risk extends well into adulthood. Therefore, the health of the entire community is at risk when we have children at risk."

The Safelight Child Advocacy Center is part of Safelight, Hope & Healing for Families. The center provides services to children for interpersonal violence, sexual assault and adverse childhood experiences. Staff work with medical providers, law enforcement, Department of Social Services, the District Attorney's office and additional partners to provide crisis intervention, conduct forensic interviews, medical exams and offer emotional support and counseling.

To learn more about the Pinwheels for Prevention program, please visit **[preventchildabuse.org](https://preventchildabuse.org)**.

For more about the Safelight Child Advocacy Center, please visit **[safelightfamily.org/child\\_advocacy.htm](https://safelightfamily.org/child_advocacy.htm)**.

**About AdventHealth Hendersonville:** Founded in 1910, AdventHealth Hendersonville is dedicated to meeting the health care needs of our growing communities, providing high-quality, compassionate, not-for-profit care in a Christian environment.

In 1984, AdventHealth Hendersonville became a member of Adventist Health System. With a sacred mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, AdventHealth is a connected system of care for every stage of life and health. More than 90,000 skilled and compassionate caregivers in physician practices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and hospice centers provide individualized, wholistic care. A shared vision, common values, focus on whole-person health and a commitment to making communities healthier unify the system's more than 50 hospital campuses and hundreds of care sites in diverse markets throughout almost a dozen states.

AdventHealth Hendersonville consistently earns national ranking for its commitment to patient safety, earning 15 consecutive "A" grades in **Leapfrog Group's Safety Grade** survey, and the **2021 and 2022 Leapfrog Top Hospital Award** for outstanding quality and safety.

AdventHealth Hendersonville includes cardiac care & rehabilitation, emergency services, nationally awarded cancer care, state-of-the-art surgical care, full-service orthopedic care, an award-winning labor & delivery experience, and a full range of imaging services to help people across our region experience whole health. For more information about AdventHealth Hendersonville or to find a physician, please visit [AdventHealthNC.com](https://www.adventhealthnc.com) or call **855-774-LIFE** (5433).

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