



## **RANDOLPH COUNTY**

### **Department of Social Services**

**Beth W. Duncan**  
Director

**Samuel R. Frazier**  
Board Chair

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **“We All Can Play a Part in Building Community, Building Hope.”**

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, Randolph County Department of Social Services encourages all individuals and organizations to play an active role in making Randolph County a better place for children and families. By ensuring parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by making meaningful connections with children, youth and families in our communities.

Research shows that certain protective factors are present in healthy families. Promoting these factors is among the most effective ways to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. They are:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents
- Social and emotional competence of children

The responsibility for the overall safety and well-being of community members lies within the community itself and April is a time set-aside to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children and strengthening families. When efforts to prevent child abuse or neglect have failed, then reporting is the next step. In North Carolina, the law requires any resident that suspects child abuse or neglect to report it to their local Department of Social Services. In Randolph County, you can call the child abuse hotline at (336) 683-8200 during regular business hours or call 911 at any other time. The child abuse reporting and response system is a part of local government social services within the community designed to stop and then prevent further abuse.

Throughout North Carolina there are victims of abuse and neglect every day. In fiscal year 2015, Randolph County Child Protective Services investigated 1,017 reports of abuse or neglect and about 180 of those reports were substantiated as abuse or neglect. Substantiated reports result in further work with the families with In-Home Services or with Foster Care to provide the level of protection needed for the child(ren) while their parents or caretakers work toward developing protective factors present in healthy families. For more information about child abuse prevention see: [www.childwelfare.gov/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/) and for NC, see the NC Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Social Services web site at: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dss>

**P.O. Box 3239 • Asheboro, North Carolina 27204**

[www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/](http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/)

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