

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper will be kicking off the month with the Spotlight on Awareness event. This event is held in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Please join us on Thursday, March 31st at 7:45 pm in front of the Erie County Courthouse for a ceremony to show support for those impacted by abuse.

The Courthouse will be illuminated by blue spotlights throughout the month of April to promote awareness of this important issue.

Other events will be going on throughout the month of April to benefit local organizations and promote awareness of abuse.

- **April 2, 2016: Success By 6 Early Learning Expo, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

This free event at the Millcreek Mall Widget Kids Area includes a free book, crafts and a pinwheel for each child. There will also be face painting by Emerald, balloon twisting with Magic Steve, strolling magic with Cliff Hopkins & Kelly, a photo opportunity with Curious George, a story time, quality early learning stations, Erie Zoo Traveling Zoo, and much more. This event is hosted by United Way Success By 6 and the Erie County Early Learning Professionals Association.

- **April 3, 2016: Cupcakes for Kids, 1 – 4 p.m.**

Who makes the best cupcakes? Come to the Medaille Room on the Villa Maria Campus at 2549 West 8th Street to help decide. For an entry fee of \$8 per person you will receive one mini cupcake from each of the vendors and then cast your vote for your favorite. Celebrity judges will also award prizes for best tasting and best looking cupcakes. Performances by Spotlight Dance Studio and other fun activities for children and adults will be featured.

- **April 6, 2016: National Day of Action - Who's Line is it Anyway?, 6 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of improv comedy based on the popular TV show, featuring host emcees Paul Lukach and Tom New, for a night of laughs and comedy at JR's Last Laugh Comedy Club. Doors at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds go to the Crime Victim Center. Purchase tickets in advance at the Crime Victim Center or at the door at JR's Last Laugh. There will be a silent raffle, audience participation and local celebrity contestants. Do you think that you are funny? We'll pull audience members up on stage for an amateur round.

- **April 9: Painting for Prevention, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

This year, Painting for Prevention will be held at the Millcreek Mall. Over the past eight years, Painting for Prevention has created 24 murals in 17 counties and Erie County residents are invited to participate in the creation of this year's mural. Each mural has its own character and message. They serve as "ambassadors" delivering the message that child abuse can be prevented throughout the year. Each mural stays in the community in which it was created.

- **April 12, 2016: Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® is an award-winning internationally celebrated opportunity for men to raise awareness in their community about the serious causes and effects of sexualize violence against women. Join the members of IFC as they walk through AJ's Way on Gannon University's campus in women's high-heeled shoes. It's not easy walking in these shoes, but it's fun and it

gets our community talking about something that's not always easy to talk about: gender relations and sexualized violence against women.

- **April 17, 2016: Be a Hero Run/Walk, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

Held at Presque Isle State Park, Beach 1, this 5K or 2K benefits the Erie County Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (CAPT). The CAPT consists of various agencies and organizations that deal with child abuse. CAPT is committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through advocacy, education and public awareness. Participants are encouraged to dress either as their favorite superhero or to wear their favorite superhero t-shirt. Sign up by visiting <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Erie/BeaHeroRun>.

- **April 18, 2016: Take Back the Night, 7 p.m.**

Join us for our annual vigil and rally against sexual violence. Participants will convene at Perry Square, march peacefully through downtown Erie, and give survivors and their loved ones the opportunity to speak out against rape and sexual assault.

- **April 28, 2016: Motorcycle Rally and Closing Ceremony, 5 p.m.**

The evening will kick off with a motorcycle parade featuring The Riders Advocating Against Child Abuse (RAACA). The parade will begin at Senator Sean Wiley's office at 1314 Griswold Plaza and end at the Erie County Courthouse. Once the parade has arrived at the front of the County Courthouse, both State Senator Sean Wiley and County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper will speak about the importance of abuse prevention.