

Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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News & Media

Junior Leaguers hope pinwheels turn heads, hearts at prevention ceremony

Stuart - A national symbol of Child Abuse Prevention, the swirling, twirling blue pinwheel has been sprouting in gardens throughout Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast this April in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. And just in time for the transition into National Foster Care Month, in May, the Junior League of Martin County will host a special pinwheel garden ceremony on April 29 at the Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast.

"We want to do something that will showcase the ongoing efforts to improve the lives of children and families in our community and at the same time make a visual statement about the work that still needs to happen," said Andi Poli, executive director and immediate past president of the League.

The garden ceremony is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. and will be open to the public.

Those attending the ceremony will be given a pinwheel and asked to plant it in a large, grassy lot next to the museum's popular Pizza Garden. Each pinwheel will represent a local child living in foster care.

By the close of the ceremony, there will be more than 250 pinwheels.

"We love the symbolism of the garden," said Christina Kaiser, community relations director for Devereux Community Based Care, the non-profit organization that oversees the child-welfare system locally. "Each of those pinwheels will stand for a child, and each of those children needs a home.

"The message carries over into our foster-parent recruitment efforts during the month of May and throughout the year."

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