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**We All Can Play a Part in Strengthening Families**  
April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

**Mount Pleasant, Iowa—March 9, 2011** During the month of April you will see blue ribbons scattered throughout Henry County and the Mount Pleasant town square. Each blue ribbon recognizes the importance of preventing Child Abuse in our community and homes. To kick off this month of awareness, the Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC) will be hosting ArtAttack, a children's art event, on March 31, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mount Pleasant Library.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, CPPC encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Henry County a better place for families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening families and communities.

Research shows that five important 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

"April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children," said Cassie Gerst, CPPC Coordinator for Henry County. "Everyone's participation is critical. Focusing on ways to promote the five protective factors, in every interaction with families, is the best thing our community can do to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect."

ArtAttack will have on display artwork from children attending various Henry County daycare and preschools and promotes our children's imagination and creativity. All residents of the area including parents, grandparents, and neighbors are encouraged to visit the Mount Pleasant Library to view the children's art on March 31, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. where we will honor our youth. The ArtAttack display will be available throughout the month of April to recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

For more information about child abuse prevention programs and activities during the month of April and throughout the year, contact Cassie Gerst at the ISU Extension Office in Mount Pleasant at (319) 385-8126.

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