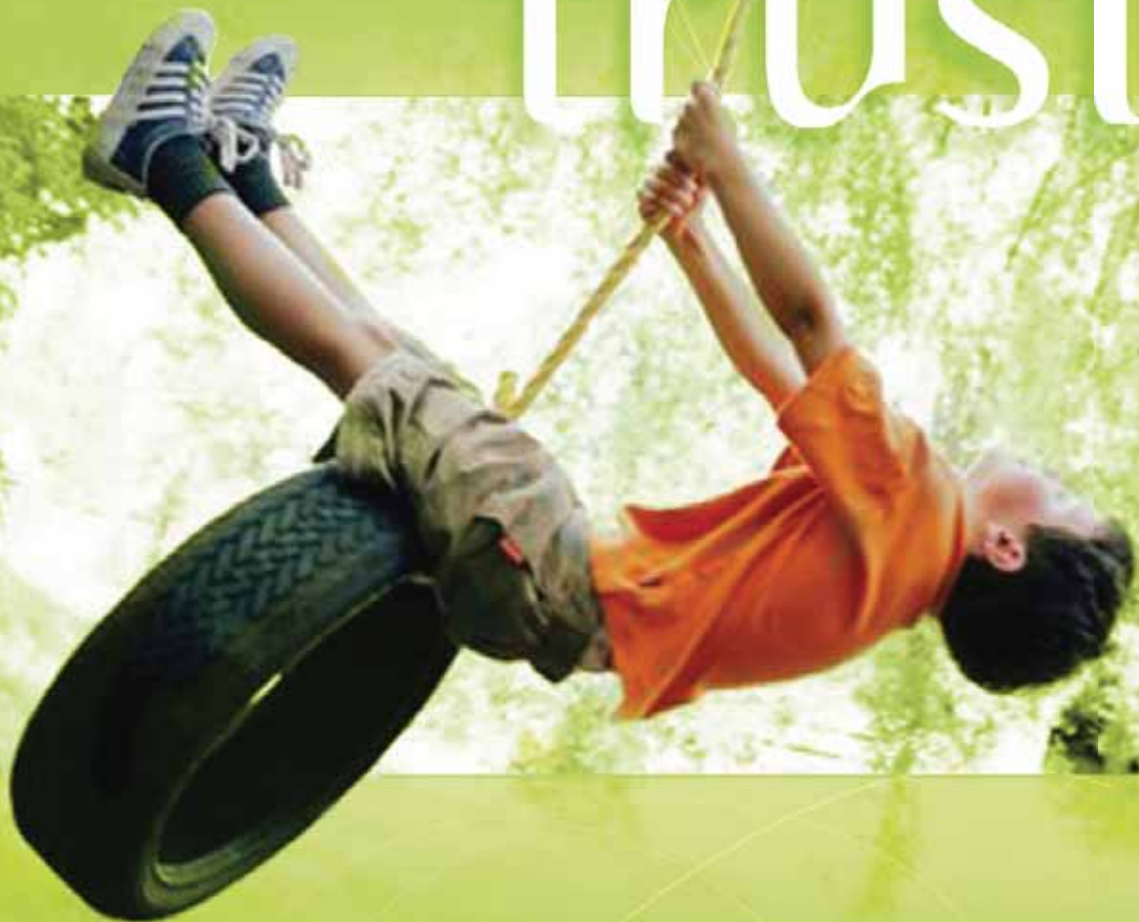


trust



children's trust fund
of alabama
24 Years
of
preventing child abuse
and neglect

Child abuse. Neglect. Those words sadden most who hear them. Children are entitled to a safe and happy childhood. Innocence is the gift that affords children the sense of wonder they need to grow and explore their world. The Children's Trust Fund of Alabama (CTF) believes in that innocence and works to ensure grants and funding for the prevention of child abuse and neglect - in all their forms.

Unfortunately, child abuse is not limited to any one group. It occurs in families of every socioeconomic level. Most parents love their children and do not intend to abuse them. The abuse and neglect occurs instead through ignorance or the inability to control emotions. The Children's Defense Fund estimates that 30% of abused children will grow up to abuse their own children. This represents a cycle of abuse from one generation to the next that must be broken.

Alabama ranks near the bottom of the nation in child well-being. The prevention of child abuse and neglect is beyond a moral argument. Prevention may not look like an economic argument, but it is. For every \$1 spent on child abuse prevention, the state will save \$19 on health/mental health services, law enforcement, school remediation, youth services and incarceration expenses.¹



hope

Build

Be a nurturing parent. Help a friend, neighbor or relative. Monitor your child's television and video viewing. Promote prevention programs at school. Report suspected abuse or neglect.

These simple things are all ways to help prevent child abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, many people never realize the treatment of the children in their lives is abusive or neglectful. We're working to change that.

One of the first lines of the prevention of child abuse and neglect is education. Parenting education can expose parents to accepted child care practices, help them understand the developmental stages of children, provide them with alternatives to abuse and teach them to deal with stress. CTF provides funding for this education through many programs - programs that truly make a difference in the lives of our children now and in the future.



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Believe

The Children's Trust Fund (CTF), created by the Alabama legislature in 1983, is the only state agency created to prevent child abuse and neglect. We believe there is no more noble mission than protecting Alabama's children and ensuring funding for groups that help safeguard the trust, faith and belief children naturally have in their caregivers. Through a community-based prevention oriented approach, CTF programs are working to stop abuse before it occurs.

Using education, initiatives and community involvement, we can bring more awareness to the prevention of abuse and neglect of children. CTF provides technical assistance to manage prevention programs and increase their coverage, impact and accountability. All of our funded programs operate on the local level, using community volunteers and professionals. Won't you join the Children's Trust Fund in the effort to make Alabama safer for all children?

Because if they're left hurting now, they can hurt later, too.

¹ University of Michigan research study

