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On the Scene

Social service agencies gather for resource day hosted by Broward AWARE!

April 27, 2011

Hundreds of community residents recently visited Fort Lauderdale's Rev. Sam Delevoe Park to celebrate a Family Fun and Resource Fair as part of the "Broward AWARE! Protecting OUR Children" campaign. Children and families enjoyed a day of free entertainment, resources, prizes, food and refreshments intended to remind the community of the importance of safe fun in children's lives. The event, engaged more than 30 social service agencies; corporate partners including Chick Fil' A, Domino's Pizza, Pepsi Cola Co. and Disney Radio; and performances from youth with the Smith Community Mental Health step team as well as HANDY.

"Broward AWARE! Protecting OUR Children" is an awareness campaign that aims to ensure that [Broward County](#) families, educators, media, law enforcement and all stakeholders use and share resources that will make it possible for all children to safely realize their full potential, hopes and dreams.

During a four month campaign culminating in April, Child Abuse Prevention Month, dozens of partners have come together to provide the community with resources and information that can help reduce and eliminate child abuse and neglect. A broader understanding of what constitutes child abuse and neglect has been a key factor in incorporating in the Broward AWARE! campaign areas such as drowning prevention, sleep safety, financial literacy, anti-bullying, safety in and around cars, selecting appropriate caregivers, managing stress and more. A series of mini-workshops on these issues was an integral part of the fair.

"This fair is as much a time to have fun and gather resources and information, as of reaffirming that it is everyone's responsibility to prevent child abuse and neglect. Nurturing and raising children to become happy, healthy and productive members of their community is an investment in a better future for all," said Andrew Leone, communication specialist for the Children's Services Council of [Broward County](#) and chair of the Child Abuse Prevention Awareness committee, organizing the event.

"Broward AWARE! Protecting OUR Children" partners include Children's Services Council; Department of Children and Families; ChildNet; [Broward County](#) Health Department; Broward Sheriff's Office; Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies; Healthy Families; [Broward County](#) Public Schools; [Broward County](#) Sexual Assault Treatment Center; [Broward County](#) Human Trafficking Coalition; The Humanity Project; Volunteer Broward; Children's Home Society; 2-1-1 Broward; ARC Broward; Guardian ad Litem; Chrysalis Center; Ounce of Prevention Fund; and more.

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For information on Broward AWARE! events, visit <http://www.211-broward.org> or <http://www.cscbroward.org>.

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