



## Go Blue For Child Abuse Prevention

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and we invite you to join us in raising awareness. The theme this year is “Thriving Children and Families: Prevention With Purpose.”

How can you help keep children safe?

- Take some time this month to learn how protective factors and adverse childhood experiences impact families and communities.
- Wear BLUE and post your picture on your social media and tag us.
- Invest in stronger support systems for families. Follow @childwelfaregov during National Child Abuse Prevention Month to [learn more](#).

**Support Child Abuse Prevention**

## The Statistics

In 2018, the Children's Advocacy Centers in Florida served over 34,000 children who were victims of child abuse or neglect.

- 60% of the victims were female
- 40% were male
- 36% were between the ages of 0 and 6 years old
- 35% suffered from sexual abuse
- 27% suffered physical abuse
- 17% suffered from neglect

We work closely with many agencies that help children afflicted with abuse. They are seeing more children than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic and need our support. Your dollars have helped support so many children going through very difficult moments, hours, days and months. Thank you!

We are proud to partner with the amazing men and women who give these children support, love, and hope. A HUGE SHOUT OUT to:

[A Safe Haven for Newborns](#)

[All Star Children's Foundation](#)

[Child Protection Center](#)

[Children's Home Society](#)

[Everyday Blessings](#)

[Family Promise of South Sarasota County](#)

[Idols Aside](#)

[More Too Life](#)

[One More Child](#)

[Peace River Center](#)

[The Florida Center for Early Childhood](#)

[The Salvation Army, Lakeland](#)

## Autism Acceptance Month

The Autism Society recognizes that the prevalence of autism in the United States has risen from 1 in 125 children in 2010 to **1 in 54 in 2020** – recognizing this continued increase, the goal for Autism Acceptance Month is to further increase awareness about autism signs and symptoms. Autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States.

The Libertore Fund is asking everyone to change the dialogue from Awareness to Acceptance! When an individual is diagnosed with Autism it doesn't mean their life requires a "less than" mindset but rather to build an inclusive society where individuals with autism live fully through connection and acceptance. With this new found acceptance we are able to improve support and opportunities in education, employment, accessible housing, affordable health care and comprehensive long-term services and supports for individuals!

[Digital Resources](#)

[for Autism Acceptance](#)

**Sylvan Cares & Partners with LibFund**



Sylvan Learning Centers in Lakeland and Winter Haven, FL, have partnered with The Libertore Fund for Children. They are giving back \$12 of every Insight Assessment completed now through May 9th, 2021.

Now more than ever our school-aged children have been faced with huge obstacles to receiving a quality education through shut-downs, virtual schooling, and a digital divide. Sylvan is skilled at assessing your child and creating a plan to accommodate their learning needs. Do you know a child who may benefit from an Insight Assessment? Share this special opportunity for Polk County students and Sylvan will pinpoint the gaps and give back to The Libertore Fund.

[Read the full article](#)



## Shoes for Sound

Have you cleaned out your closet lately?

You may not realize it but those shoes you keep saying you're going to wear but never do have a BIG VALUE for the [Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center in Lakeland!](#)

Join us in a "60-Day Challenge" to fill 100 bags filled with gently worn, used and new shoes. We're looking for all types of shoes: sneakers, casual shoes, dress shoes, etc. Your donation of shoes will help children and adults in our community to hear, learn language, and to read and write.

Donation Locations:

- Central Florida Speech & Hearing at [3020 Lakeland Highlands Road, Lakeland, FL 33803](#), (Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-5:00pm)

- Babe's Shoes & Apparel: 2537 Florida Ave S, Lakeland, FL 33803
- Swan Brewing
  - 115 Pine Street, Lakeland, FL 33801
  - 2972 Lakeland Highlands Rd, Lakeland, FL 33803
- Winn-Dixie: 2900 Lakeland Highlands Rd, Lakeland, FL 33803
- Ultimate Dance Studio: 2980 Lakeland Highlands Rd, Lakeland, FL 33803
- FitNiche: 1523 Town Center Dr, Lakeland, FL 33803
- Guardian Wealth: 5116 S Lakeland Dr, Lakeland, FL 33813

All donated shoes will be refurbished through [Funds2Orgs](#) and used to support micro-enterprise vendors. Micro-enterprises are small businesses in developing nations that are typically operated by one person or family and friends, depending on size.

Any organization can participate. It's a great way to earn funds and give back. Learn more at <https://funds2orgs.com/libtorefund/>.