

Chapter Talking Points — 2026 CAP Month

Pinwheels of Possibility

Core Message

Every child is born full of promise. When families have the support they need early, before stress becomes a crisis, children grow up safer, healthier, and full of hope for the future. Child abuse and neglect are preventable, and prevention begins when families and communities are empowered to define what support looks like and systems align to meet those needs.

What *Pinwheels of Possibility* Represents

Pinwheels symbolize childhood joy and imagination, but they also represent something deeper.

They remind us that **when the conditions are right, children can thrive.**

Prevention is about creating those conditions early by:

- Partnering with parents
- Strengthening families
- Investing in community-defined solutions

Pinwheels of Possibility reflects a strengths-based vision that centers families and communities as the foundation of child well-being.

The Narrative Shift We Are Leading

This CAP Month, we are intentionally shifting the national conversation:

- **From individual parental blame → collective responsibility**
- **From crisis response → prevention infrastructure**
- **From systems deciding → communities defining solutions**

Prevention is not only possible, it is essential.

Why Prevention Matters

- Nearly **1 in 7 children** in the U.S. experiences abuse or neglect each year.
- Research shows that **Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)**, safe, stable, and nurturing relationships, protect children and promote lifelong well-being.

- Families supported early are better equipped to provide safe and stable environments where children can reach their full potential.

Prevention works best when it focuses on what families need, not on reacting after harm has occurred.

Families and Communities at the Center

Families do not exist in isolation. Economic stability, access to healthcare, quality childcare, safe housing, and strong community connections all shape safety and family well-being.

Preventing child abuse and neglect is a **shared responsibility**, one that requires collaboration across early childhood, health, housing, education, business, faith, and community-based sectors.

Families and communities must lead the conversation about what works.

Prevention in Action

Prevent Child Abuse America and its chapter network advance evidence-based, community-driven prevention strategies every day.

One example is **Healthy Families America**, an evidence-based home visiting model that partners with parents during pregnancy and early childhood through voluntary, relationship-based support.

These early investments reduce stress, strengthen families, and prevent harm before it happens.

What Chapters Can Lift Up

- Hope and possibility—not fear or blame
- Families as leaders and experts
- Prevention as shared infrastructure
- Local examples of community-defined solutions
- Cross-sector partnerships that strengthen families

Closing Message

As pinwheels spin across communities this April, let them remind us of what is possible when we listen to families, invest in prevention, and act proactively together.

Prevention makes possibility real.