



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EVERYONE PLAYS A PART IN PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE AND SUPPORTING STRONG AND THRIVING FAMILIES IN HAMPTON ROADS

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA – April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAP). This month and throughout the year, Samaritan House encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Hampton Roads a better place for children and families. Sadly, over half of all of the victims we serve are children. Statistics surrounding child abuse are sobering.

- **Children witnessing violence are twice as likely to be abusers and/or victims of domestic violence.**
- **6 times more likely to commit suicide.**
- **24 times more likely to be sexually assaulted.**
- **60 times more likely to be involved in delinquent behavior.**
- **Children witnessing violence are twice as likely to be abusers and/or victims of domestic violence.**

"Focusing on building awareness of this issue and connecting with families is the best way to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and violence. Children exposed to violence that come to Samaritan House are assessed for individual needs and receive therapeutic services such as art and play therapy, family counseling and academic support," said Robin Gauthier, Executive Director of Samaritan House.

In recognition of CAP 2021, Samaritan House is partnering with members of the Hampton Roads business community who are interested in making a difference in the lives of children affected by violence, by building awareness and funds. During the month of April, be sure to visit one the participating businesses (click [HERE](#) for a complete list of participating businesses), donate online at www.samaritanhouseva.org or text "SAM" to 50155 to make a donation with your smartphone.

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ABOUT SAMARITAN HOUSE: Since 1984, Samaritan House has sought to foster personal safety, growth and self-sufficiency in adults and their children through freedom from sexual and domestic violence, human trafficking and homelessness in Hampton Roads by providing emergency and permanent housing, support services and community outreach to victims. For additional information, visit: www.samaritanhouseva.org