

Prevent Child Abuse America - What is it and How to Help?



Did you know that 18% of adolescents between the ages of 14 and 17 reported that their parents/caregivers had physical abuse at some point? (Finkelhor, 2013). And that is only the ones that have been reported in that statistic. No child deserves to grow up in a home they do not feel safe in.

That's why Prevent Child Abuse America has been working for the past 51 years to help raise and spread awareness about this non-profit. You will read more about what PCAA is, its importance, and how to help your local PCAA branch.

What is PCAA?

PCAA is a non-profit organization founded in 1972 by Donna J. Stone. PCAA has a dedicated team that aims to prevent child abuse and neglect before it happens behind closed doors. This organization advocates for change on all levels of local, state, and national needs. They also raise awareness for programs that families can utilize nationwide (Learn About Prevent Child Abuse America, n.d.).

Donna J. Stone had a vision 51 years ago for a future where no children are abused or neglected by family members. This made her start the non-profit and start making a change in the country for children who are too afraid to speak up. She decided to be the voice for them.

PCAA's mission statement says, "To prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children" (Learn About Prevent Child Abuse America, n.d.). This statement follows what PCAA was founded on by Stone and still follows today 51 years later.

PCAA's vision statement says, "We envision a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities." (Learn About Prevent Child Abuse America, n.d.). I also like this vision statement since it goes along with what the founder wanted back in the 1970s, and they still follow it today, which shows how strong this non-profit is and how important it is to the country.



Why is PCAA Important?

PCAA advocates for services and policies to strengthen families and their communities. They want to promote healthy child development and prevent abuse and neglect in homes before it happens (Public Policy, n.d.).

According to a study by the Child Welfare Information Gateway, when a child grows up in an abused home, that can cause long-lasting adverse effects on the child for their whole lifetime. It is estimated that the total lifetime costs associated with just the substantiated cases of child maltreatment back in 2015 were around \$428 billion (What Is Prevention and Why Is It Important?, n.d.)

The CDC stated that children who are abused or neglected also have an increased risk in the future for things like substance abuse, delayed brain development, lower education attainment, violence, and more. (Fast Facts: Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect |Violence Prevention|Injury Center, n.d.)

It is essential to stop the abuse before it happens so children don't have these long-term effects because childhood lasts a lifetime, and these are crucial moments in children's lives where they need to learn and grow into the future person they will become.

How to Help In Your Area!

There are many ways to help PCAA through donations, volunteering, or fundraising. The national PCAA website has many ways to help, which you can find [here](#)!

There are many PCAA chapters and locations across the United States, so finding one to help will be easy. Use the [chapter locator](#) to find the nearest one. You can volunteer at these local chapters to help the cause. If you do not have the time to volunteer, you can donate money directly to the website.



When volunteering, you can do multiple things like placing pinwheels for prevention, superhero walks, diaper drives, and more! Pinwheel for prevention is putting blue and silver pinwheels around your local area to spread awareness about PCAA, as the pinwheel is their logo. Diaper drives are ways to give back to families needing basic supplies like diapers, wipes, food, and more. (PCAA Delaware County, n.d.)

Finally, you can also host fundraising events to raise money! Kappa Delta is a national sorority. Their leading philanthropy is PCAA, so they do annual events yearly to raise funds for the cause and donate them to all their local chapters. 1.6 million dollars is raised annually by Kappa Delta across the country for PCAA. (Philanthropy | Kappa Delta Sorority Kappa Delta, n.d.). The main thing you can do is raise awareness about this non-profit and share the ways to help!

Support PCAA Today!

PCAA is a very important non-profit that always needs help, no matter how you can do so. Please look up your closest PCAA branch and learn how you can help in your area today. If you do not live near a local department, you can donate on their website [here](#)! Any help is a step in the right direction. Help give these children a bright and healthy future and prevent abuse and neglect in homes before it happens.

References

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