****

**Press Release**

**Contact: Robin Burchfield**

 **904-829-1770 or robinb@sayskids.org**

**St. Augustine Youth Services to Observe April National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**Pinwheel 2nd Annual Parade” March against Child Abuse – April 11th**

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and since 1989, people nationwide wear the blue ribbon and carry blue pinwheels in April to create awareness of the need to keep kids safe and families strong.

The **“2nd Annual Parade” Pinwheel March against Child Abuse** will be on April 11th at the SAYS Hutson Family Campus from 10:00-11:30am. There will be a ceremonial “parade” around the campus, free children’s activites, parenting information and people on hand to answer questions about resources available in St. Johns County.

The St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office will land their helicopter (pending weather conditions), Sheriff Explorers will be providing information about the program and passing out fingerprint kits to parents, and two deputies from the Crisis Negotiation Team will be here with their command center.

Also Luli’s Cupcakes will bring their mobile cupcake house with cake pops for sale. Beverages and snacks will be provided by SAYS.

 “April is a time to celebrate the important role that communities play in protecting children,” says Schuyler Siekfer, SAYS Executive Director. “Everyone’s participation is critical. Focusing on ways to build and promote the protective factors, in every interaction with children and families, is the best thing our community can do to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development.”

School and community groups are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Robin Burchfield at robinb@sayskids.org or 904-829-1770.

**Community Garden Day – April 11th**

Calling all gardeners! Please come to SAYS, immediately following the Pinwheel Parade Against Child Abuse, from 11:30am – 1:30pm to help us with our Butterfly Garden and Sauls Family Vegetable Garden.

No experience is necessary. This is a great way to earn community service hours and have fun at the same time.