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DONATE THIS TAX SEASON, INFLUENCE LIVES OF IOWA'S CHILDREN

State Income Tax Form Simplifies Giving Opportunity to End Child Abuse

Washington, IA – For many Iowans, tax season is the time of year to enjoy a little extra cash flow, thanks to state and federal tax refunds. This year, there is an opportunity to receive *and* give upon filing state income taxes. Every Iowan has an opportunity to donate a portion of their tax refund to the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program, through the state income tax check off. Taxpayers who don't receive a refund can still make a contribution when filing.

A modest donation will make the difference in the lives of children across the state – with still enough money remaining to treat yourself. Donations are distributed into communities through organizations providing direct support and education to families.

In Washington County, the Public Health Department receives funds from the Child Abuse Check Off. Public Health offers the Parents as Teachers program to parents with a child pre birth to 42 months of age so they can gain knowledge of appropriate developmental expectations and provide a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for their child. Funding from the Child Abuse Check Off supplements other funding received from the Early Childhood Iowa Board serving Washington and Henry Counties.

To make a donation, taxpayers simply need to direct their attention to the specific line on the state income tax form where they can indicate the amount they would like to contribute. The monetary donation will be automatically deducted from a refund, or added onto the total cost to file state income taxes.

“Child abuse prevention services, such as those offered by Washington County Public Health, assist families in building ‘protective factors’,” stated Steve Scott, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Iowa. “The more protective factors present in a family, the more likely a child will grow up free from abuse and reach his or her full potential. The Child Abuse Check Off is an important source of funding to ensure every family in Iowa has the necessary resources,” explained Scott. “When children and families excel, communities reap the rewards.”

Under Iowa law, there are four beneficiaries of the income tax check off, which are highlighted on the state income tax forms. The Child Abuse Check Off is in its fourth year of inclusion on the state tax forms.

To learn more about the Child Abuse Check Off, please direct your attention to www.checkoffchildabuseiowa.org.