

During prevention month, quilts tell stories of child abuse's impact

Quilts created by those who have been touched in some way by childhood trauma are on display at the Allegheny County Courthouse Gallery to observe Child Abuse Prevention Month, which is marked in April each year.

Children seen by the professionals at [A Child's Place](#) for treatment of child abuse decorated fabric squares showing a happy moment in their lives. The squares were then made into quilt. Caseworkers in the Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) created another quilt from squares they made at a retreat last summer. The squares illustrate the resiliency they show in the face of on-the-job stress. Caseworker MC Henderson pieced those squares into a quilt that is tied with blue ribbons and bordered in blue. Blue ribbons are a symbol of child abuse prevention.



The quilt display at the county courthouse and details of two of the quilts.

The third quilt was created by the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Youth Support Partners (YSPs), young adults who mentor young people who are receiving services. YSPs have had experience in the human services system and often have gone through childhood trauma themselves.

The quilts will be on display through April at the courthouse, 436 Grant St., Downtown. Child Abuse Prevention Month has been marked since 1983. DHS has [promoted the event](#) each year for over a decade, often in collaboration with [A Child's Place](#) and [Family Resources](#). Both are providers of prevention, intervention and treatment services for families and children dealing with child abuse.

The national [Child Information Gateway](#) website also has information about factors that help prevent child abuse, as well as tip sheets and activities that can be shared with families.