



children's home + aid

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT ABUSE IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY HOMES ANNOUNCED

GRANITE CITY, ILL. (Feb. 2, 2011)--In January the southern region of Children's Home + Aid welcomed a new program that will train over 60 early childhood centers in St. Clair County, Ill., to partner with families in keeping children safe at home.

'Strengthening Families Illinois' is an educational program funded by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The research-based initiative views early childhood educators as a key component of preventing abuse and neglect within a family.

"These centers have a unique relationship with parents," said Kim Hunt, director of Children's Home + Aid Childcare Resource and Referrals in the region. "We hope to reduce the risk of abuse through the influence and trust essential in these relationships."

Children's Home + Aid instructors will help educators and parents understand the causes of abuse and how to protect children from birth to five years old. The program plans to impact approximately 130 children and their families in St. Clair County.

"While Children's Home + Aid works tirelessly to keep children safe, we're proud to play a role in prevention programs like these," said Ms. Hunt.

Children's Home + Aid serves an estimated 6,400 children and adults across seven counties in southern Illinois. The agency aims to provide hope, help and opportunity to those facing overwhelming obstacles such as poverty, abuse and neglect. The organization's regional office is based in Granite City, Ill., and it operates additional offices in Alton, Belleville and East St. Louis.

For more information on the SFI program, visit strengtheningfamiliesillinois.org.