



Dear {!Contact.FirstName},

Greetings from INMED's Loudoun Programs!

As an organization that works diligently to help parents strengthen their parenting skills, become more self-sufficient and achieve stability, we invite you to join us in observing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. We would like to take this opportunity to share our accomplishments in the arena of child abuse and neglect prevention, a job that we couldn't do without the collaboration of partners like you. We hope you find our news not only informative but a true testament to our commitment to serving our community's families and children in need.

Warmest regards,

Linda Pfeiffer, Ph.D.  
Founder, President and CEO

Maria Elena Vasquez-Alvarez  
Director, Loudoun County Programs



### Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Before It Ever Happens

The tragic story in the news this week about the newborn baby abandoned and left to die in a pond in Sterling highlights the need for the MotherNet/Healthy Families Loudoun program. We could have helped prevent that terrible outcome by giving the mother the support and guidance she so desperately needed, connecting her to other services, and educating her about the options and possibilities for her infant so that she would not resort to such a devastating decision.

Since 1994, INMED's MotherNet/Healthy Families Loudoun program has helped hundreds of pregnant women and teens at high risk for poor outcomes in child health, development and safety give their children the healthiest possible start in life. That means linking them to early and regular prenatal care, ensuring that their children have a medical home and receive well care and immunizations, teaching them parenting skills, monitoring their children's developmental milestones, and providing the emotional support they need to cope with the challenges of new parenthood. At the same time, we help families define—and achieve—personal goals for their future, helping them gain self-confidence and self-sufficiency.

#### Help Prevent or Report Child Abuse and Neglect

Loudoun County CPS Helpline  
703-771-KIDS (5437)

Virginia Child Abuse Hotline  
1-800-552-7096

Parent Helpline  
800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)



All of these actions help prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening education, providing crucial emotional support, minimizing the potential for health and developmental problems causing stress and frustration that can lead to abuse, and building knowledge of what to expect throughout the stages of pregnancy and early childhood.

Read more about the MotherNet/Healthy Families Loudoun program [here](#), and [learn more](#)

### Moments in Virginia

Every 83 minutes, a child is abused or neglected.<sup>1</sup>

In an average moment, there are 4,802

about a mother who counts the program as an ally in helping her become a good parent.

## Child Abuse Prevention Month

The theme of this year's Child Abuse Prevention Month is "Insure Their Future: Invest in Children." Many research studies have shown that investing in children, especially during ages 0-5—the most critical years in their development—leads to significant returns. As reported by Healthy Families Virginia, "Harvard's Universal Scientific Council on the Developing Child reports unequivocally that **investments in early childhood** pay for themselves many times over in higher academic achievement, lower rates of grade retention, remedial services, school failure, criminal behavior and welfare dependence."



### *Will you invest in a child in need in Loudoun County?*

Click [here](#) to make a tax-deductible donation to support MotherNet/Healthy Families Loudoun and to give a vulnerable child the change to grow up safe and healthy, and enter school ready to learn and succeed.

See "Moments in Virginia" in the blue column (on the right) to learn more about the impact of child abuse and neglect in the state.

## We Know What Works in Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

The MotherNet/Healthy Families Loudoun program is focused on results—so we take part in an independent evaluation of our outcomes every year to show how we are making a difference in the lives of at-risk children and families. Our most recent cumulative (FY 2008-2012) independent evaluation confirms that **none** of the families enrolled in the past five years have had founded cases of child abuse or neglect. Because the majority of our participants report being abused themselves as children and/or adults, the MotherNet/Healthy Families Loudoun program is truly making an impact, helping break the widely recognized cycle of abuse.

Our other program outcomes are similarly strong. For example, between FY 2008-2012:

- 100% of pregnant participants received adequate prenatal care.
- 91% of babies were born at healthy weights.
- 100% of children had a medical home.
- 97% of children remained up-to-date on immunizations.
- No teen mothers had a rapid repeat birth (within 24 months of the first).
- 98% of parents demonstrated positive parent-child interaction and maintained a home environment supportive of optimal child development.

*We know what works to prevent child abuse and neglect, but we can't do it without you. Please join INMED in investing in children with your [donation](#) today.*



## About INMED Partnerships for Children

INMED Partnerships for Children is an international humanitarian development organization. Since 1986, INMED has built alliances with public- and private-sector partners in more than 100 countries to rescue children from the immediate and irreversible harm of disease, hunger, abuse, neglect or violence, and to prepare them to shape a brighter future for themselves and the next generation.

Together with our partners, INMED is transforming the future for hundreds of thousands of children and their family and community members in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa by:

- Securing children's health, development and safety
- Developing skills, knowledge and opportunities for children and youth
- Building family and community capacity to support and sustain positive change

children in foster care in Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

Every 10 days, a child dies from abuse or neglect.<sup>1</sup>

Every 7 days, a child aged 19 and younger is murdered.<sup>2</sup>

Every 1.8 hours, a child is served by a domestic violence program.<sup>3</sup>

Every 2.8 hours, a family seeks shelter from a domestic violence program but is denied for lack of space.<sup>3</sup>

Every day, 5 children receive services from a sexual assault crisis center.<sup>3</sup>

Every 73 minutes, a juvenile commits a violent crime.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Virginia Department of Social Services, 2012

<sup>2</sup>Virginia State Police, 2011

<sup>3</sup>VAdata: The Virginia Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Data Collection System, 2011

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