

[Child Abuse Prevention Month focuses on resilience](#)

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More than 600 children in Yolo County were abused or neglected in 2017, and with children here entering and remaining in the child welfare system at higher rates than many other counties, strengthening families to prevent abuse in the first place remains a local priority.

More than 20 local agencies and community organizations are collaborating on efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect through the Yolo County Children's Alliance's Yolo Family Strengthening Network and representatives of some of those organizations were recognized by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors Tuesday as the board proclaimed April child abuse prevention month.

In presenting the county proclamation, Supervisor Jim Provenza of Davis noted that protecting children is "probably one of our most important responsibilities as county supervisors.

"We have in this county 604 children that were victims of abuse and neglect in 2017," he said. And "every single child that is a victim of abuse or neglect... sets forth a chain of events that is very negative for the child and very negative for society.

"It's really important that we keep our eye on stopping abuse before it occurs at all."

Evidence has repeatedly shown that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) — including physical, emotional and sexual child abuse, neglect and parental stress or illness — can have both short- and long-term consequences. The higher the number of ACEs experienced, the county notes, the higher the likelihood of an adulthood impacted by physical, mental and emotional problems, which then impact the next generation of children. Breaking the cycle remains key.

Evidence-based prevention and intervention efforts are far less costly in the long run, the county proclamation notes, than trying to fix the adverse effects of child maltreatment — "both in human and financial terms."

"Preventing child abuse and neglect is a community issue, and we all have a responsibility to nurture and protect our children and help ensure they become healthy and productive adults."

In Yolo County, the Child Abuse Prevention Council — a Yolo County Children's Alliance program — coordinates community efforts, including through this year's focus, "Nurturing Children During Times of Stress," aimed at helping parents learn how to protect children from intense stress and promote resilience.

The campaign has just released a new parenting guide, available in English, Spanish and Russian, both online and in print, to help parents support resilience in their children.

Resilience strategies focus on getting help, supporting positive relationships, creating a positive home environment and practicing self-care. The guide is available at www.yolokids.org/forfamilies/.

Meanwhile, community members are invited to watch the documentary “Resilience” to learn more about the biology of stress and the science of hope. The first screening takes place Wednesday, April 24, at 6 p.m. at Woodland Community College, Building 800; the second on Monday, April 29, at 6 p.m. at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library in West Sacramento. Following the movie, a panel of experts will answer questions. A preview of the film can be found online at <https://kpjrfilms.co/resilience/>.

The Child Abuse Prevention Council has also partnered with Resilient Yolo to support the “Be the One” social media campaign. “Be the One” raises awareness of the power of connection and how changing a person’s life for the better can happen with one positive connection with just one person. The campaign encourages the community to learn more about the impact of adverse childhood (and community) experiences and the science of resilience.

More information about “Be the One” is available at <https://betheoneyolo.org/>. Learn more about Resilient Yolo, visit <https://www.acesconnection.com/g/yolo-county-ca-aces>.

“It’s our belief that every single person in the community can positively impact our children and families who may be struggling,” said Tracy Fauver, chair of the Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Fauver accepted the county proclamation from Provenza on Tuesday on behalf of the council’s many partners, including CommuniCare Health Center, Empower Yolo, First 5 Yolo, the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center, Yolo County Children’s Alliance, Yolo County CASA, Yolo County District Attorney’s Office, Yolo County Health and Human Services, Yolo County Office of Education and Yolo County Probation.

To learn more about the Yolo County Child Abuse Prevention Council, visit www.yolokids.org/child-abuse-prevention-council.