

# Press Release

**LAKE CITY**  
**POLICE**  
**DEPARTMENT**



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*Chief of Police Gerald Butler*

**For Immediate Release**

April 8, 2024

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## **Blue Badges for Child Abuse Prevention Month**

As part of the ongoing commitment to protect children and promote their well-being, the Lake City Police Department is honored to accept the donation of blue badges from the UF Child Advocacy Center in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The blue badges, symbolizing our unity in the fight against child abuse, will be distributed among officers within the Lake City Police Department. This initiative aims to raise awareness about child abuse prevention and emphasize the crucial role we all play in safeguarding children from harm.

According to UF Child Advocacy Center and statistical research data, it is evident that child abuse inflicts profound and enduring consequences. It can lead to enduring mental health challenges such as anxiety and substance abuse, alongside enduring physical health issues like diabetes and heart disease. Shockingly, in 2015 alone, approximately 1,670 children in the U.S. lost their lives due to abuse and neglect.

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) are places where child abuse survivors can seek assistance within a nurturing and supportive environment. These centers provide a range of services including evidence-gathering interviews, counseling to address mental health needs, and comprehensive support to ensure children receive proper care. Notably, CACs nationwide supported over 311,000 child abuse victims last year alone, underscoring the critical role they play in aiding children's recovery from traumatic experiences.

"Child Abuse Prevention Month serves as a poignant reminder of the collective responsibility we share in protecting our most vulnerable members of society," said Chief of Police, Gerald Butler. "By partnering with the UF Child Advocacy Center, we hope to amplify their efforts in ensuring the safety and well-being of children within our community."

Learn more about UF CAC by visiting <https://cac.pediatrics.med.ufl.edu/>



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