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## **PURDUE DOES ITS PART DURING CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**

West Lafayette, Ind.-- Several members of the Purdue community are coming together in the next few weeks for one common goal--putting a stop to child abuse and neglect.

With April being Child Abuse Awareness Month, faculty and students alike are working to create awareness and change.

Dr. Steven Wilson is a professor of communication at Purdue, and much of his research pertains to patterns of communication between parents and children.

According to his biography on the Purdue Web site, his purpose is to examine families of similar backgrounds--both with and without a history of abuse--and accurately distinguish the differences in how they communicate.

Wilson is using his knowledge and passion as a director of the non-profit Lafayette organization Our Kids Are Our Community, which will be hosting its 5th Annual Summit on Thursday, April 8.

Purdue students are also getting involved in child abuse prevention. One communication class is getting real-life PR experience in helping Wilson and the Our Kids organization get the word out about their Summit.

Laura Scheu, a senior in the School of Liberal Arts, is one of the students participating. She said that the experience is great, but the real benefit is being able to contribute to the cause.

"You're never really aware of your own community's problems with things like child abuse," Scheu said. "Working with Our Kids has really made the situation more relevant."

There are also several mentoring organizations at Purdue, including College Mentors for Kids and Big Brothers Big Sisters that dedicate activities year round to local youth. Both organizations are mentoring programs that ensure kids get the quality time and support they need from the community.

For more information about local mentoring or child abuse prevention, you can visit:

**Our Kids Are Our Community:** [www.ourkidstippecanoe.org](http://www.ourkidstippecanoe.org)

**College Mentors for Kids:** [www.collegementors.org](http://www.collegementors.org)

**Big Brothers Big Sisters:** [web.ics.purdue.edu/~bbbs](http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~bbbs)

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